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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Arab Maghreb Union Summit in Algiers

KUNA Previews Summit

LD2207100690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, July 22 (KUNA)—Leaders of the five-country Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Sunday open their second summit here under Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The two-day meeting's working agenda will include discussing results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad and the latest developments in the international and Arab arenas. Talks will also touch on the nagging issue of the AMU headquarters, as Tunisia and Algeria have been competing to host it. The recent rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Algeria recently and its impact on the rest of the member countries will also be discussed extensively.

Algeria has recently organized municipal elections in which the "Islamic Salvation Front" won most of the seats, defeating the ruling Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) party.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has warned of the dangers of those factions that use Islam as [an] umbrella, saying that their existence is a dangerous conspiracy on the Arab nation.

Effects of the current international changes on the region and threats against the Arab national security, are among the key topics.

Arab Maghreb cooperation and integration in the economic, social, cultural, industrial and financial fields will feature on the summit's agenda.

President Bendjedid last night held tete-a-tete talks with Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhdafi, Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya.

Tunisian President Ben Ali and Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi also held one-to-one talks concerning ways of boosting bilateral relations between them and the latest developdments in the international and Arab fronts.

Foreign ministers of the AMU held meetings last Friday and Saturday to prepare for the summit.

The AMU groups Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya and Algeria.

Algerian president said last night that any Zionist infiltration in the region, especially Africa, threatens the interest of the Arab nation, adding that the Arabs and Africans would be equally responsible for any such rupture. He added that the Arab nation should concentrate on Arab-African relations in various fields.

Speaking to the Libyan Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA) Bendjedid said that a foreign ministerial meeting grouping Arab and African foreign diplomats will be held in Algiers before the end of this year to boost Arab-African cooperation.

The Arab-Maghreb Union issue is sensitive and strategic Bendjedid said, adding that the AMU had achieved some of its goals.

He said that the summit scheduled to open in Algiers today will bear great achievements.

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives

LD2107130690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The second session of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] heads of state council begins at the Club des Pins' Palace of Nations tomorrow. A number of Maghreb heads of state are expected to arrive later today. Correspondent Saliha Bahri reports from Houari Boumedienne International Airport:

[Bahri] Hello Hassiba and all our listeners everywhere. A short while ago, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, arrived in Algiers to take part in the Maghreb summit due to take place in Algiers tomorrow. He was welcomed on the tarmac of Houari Boumedienne International Airport upon arrival by the president of the Republic, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, who was accompanied by the head of the government, Mouloud Hamrouce, and a number of members of the government as well as the Arab and African diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made a statement at the airport's VIP hall to the local and international press. However, because of technical difficulties at the radio station, it was not possible for us to relay this statement to you. We might be able to do so in later bulletins. I should remind you that the Mauritanian president will be arriving later today at 1700 and the Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at 1830. And we have noted that the press is present at the airport in great numbers. Goodbye.

Mauritanian, Tunisian Presidents Arrive

LD2107203190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The Maghreban leaders started arriving today in our country. [passage omitted]

At around 1730 Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya arrived. He was met at the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, the members of the government, and the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. [video shows arrival ceremony, and two leaders at the VIP lounge]

At 1800 Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived. He too was received by President Chadli Bendjedid. [video shows arrival ceremony and two leaders at the VIP lounge]

Ministers Meet on Summit Eve

LD2107144290 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 21/7/90 (APS)—At the eve of Maghrebin countries (UMA) summit, foreign ministers of these five countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya) examined yesterday the reports that were submitted to them by the follow up committee as well as the general secretariat of the union. Participants stressed on the political will that prompted leaders of the region to consolidate process of the Maghreb edification and the materialization of objectives set by UMA. Namely the economic integration the council examined the nine projects elaborated by the four ministerial commissions. [sentence as received] (?These) projects of agreements are aimed at reinforcing capacity of integration of Maghreb economies.

In his address to the ministerial council, Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said we are working for the achievement of Maghreb union, in order to contribute positively in the development of the world. He called on all participants to strive for ironing out all obstacles on the way of this noble cause and appealed for setting up a fruitful cooperation in a move to achieve the expected complementarity.

Among the questions examined by foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania there is also the designation of one of the one capitals as headquarters to the UMA permanent secretariat general. They will also elect a secretary general of the union for a mandate of three or five years.

Heads of state are expected here today for the opening session of the summit scheduled for tomorrow.

Algeria, chairs since the first of July the Council of Presidency of UMA, after Tunisia outgoing chairman for the last semester.

Ministers Finalize Summit Agenda

LD2207002390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Tomorrow, Algeria hosts the second session of the UMA Presidential Council.

The UMA foreign ministers focused during their meetings at the Palais des Nations on putting the last touches to the draft agreements, the draft agenda, and the final communique to be submitted to the summit. [passage omitted] We now contact our colleague [name indistinct] in the Palais des Nations for more details:

[Correspondent] Following a three-hour closed session, the door of the hall was opened to allow journalists to hear the final communique, which was brief but concentrated. It was read out by Mr. Sid Ahmed Ali Ghazali, the foreign minister and chairman of the UMA Council of Ministers.

The communique says the ministers agreed upon a recommendation, which will be raised tomorrow at the leaders' meeting, suggesting a transformation of the currently roving general secretariat of the UMA to a resident structure. Mr. Ali Ghazali said in the communique that an agreement has been reached to set up a customs unit which will consolidate cooperation, complementarity, and integration with the aim of reaching a Maghreban common market.

Agreement has also been reached concerning other important issues, such as food security, movement of persons, and economic activity.

The ministerial meeting was crowned, according to the aforementioned communique, with an agreement which calls for the consolidation of the relations of cooperation between the Maghreban community and the other regional communities, that is, the Arab, African, and European communities. The ministers think the forthcoming November meeting between the UMA foreign ministers and those of the EEC will constitute an opportunity to qualitatively enhance relations between the two communities.

Algerian President Addresses Summit

LD2207215390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 2007 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Speech by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at the opening session of the Arab Maghreb Union summit in the Club des Pins in Algiers—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Highnesses, brothers, and sisters, I have the pleasure and honor to welcome you warmly among your people and families who feel amity, esteem, and gratitude for you in this supreme meeting which brings together [words indistinct] on the path of the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, we are meeting here today in Algeria. We are invited to assess this colossal work in order to continue our Maghreb march and strengthen it, fully aware of what we have achieved and what must be achieved. Dear brothers, the path before us is long and arduous. We must arm ourselves further with patience, perseverance and determination to continue firmly and persist in this increasing push of our march to achieve our aspiration and the aspirations of all Maghreb generations. Indeed, we attach great hope to laying down a comprehensive Maghreb economic charter and creating the appropriate conditions and circumstances to establish a common Maghreb market before the end of this decade. The planning for this could be as follows: in the first phase, to establish a region of free exchange as soon as possible by laying down comprehensive trade and tarrif agreements regarding all products of Maghreb origin; in the second phase, to establish Maghreb customs unity before 1995 to become a transitional instrument toward the establishment of a common Maghreb market. Parallel with this, it would be favorable to lay down a joint Maghreb plan regarding food security in our countries.

As for the cultural and education spheres, the setting up of Maghreb institutions assumes great importance because the shaping of our Maghreb youth on the basis of unified plans and programs could make the generations mature in a firm [word indistinct], committed to and reliant on the values of our civilization, culture, and Islamic beliefs, and at the samie time capable of both fully benefiting from scientific and technological progress and of contributing to their enrichment. Finally, the credibility of joint Maghreb action for the ordinary citizen lies principally in the effects produced by the measures taken that would be felt in his daily life, beginning with making him feel free, confident, and secure in himself and in his possessions wherever he may be in our Maghreb.

Dear brothers the relaxation that has prevailed in most regions of the world and that has extinguished many hotbeds of tension in it, has regretablly not included the Middle East region. The Palestinian people are still suffering from repression and oppression, deprived even from the most basic rights. Every day it offers its martyrs on the altar of freedom for the sake of recovering its inalienable national rights. Moreover, this relaxation has added a new burden and has created threats of dire consequences represented, in particular, by the intensive forced emigration of Jews to Palestine and their settlement in the Arab territories, a matter which requires a solid stand vis-a-vis this imminent danger from all Arabs. This also calls upon us to work to fortify our nation and ensure the future of our generations. [passage omitted]

Tunisian President Addresses Summit

LD2207212490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the opening of the Arab Maghreb Union summit in the Club des Pins in Algiers; relay shows speech already in progress—live]

[Excerpts] What makes us more resolved is that we have been successful—praise be to God—in a relatively short time in covering important stages along the path of this union. We have completed the establishment of its apparatus by installing the judicial authority. This authority has seriously and actively commenced its work. Specialized ministerial committees have, since the Tunis summit, begun the search for the most beneficial way of implementing the union's programs of action in all vital spheres. [passage omitted]

While our council will today look into a number of executive decisions and projects submitted for its approval and authorize implementation of these decisions and projects on account of the council being the highest authority of the union, we appreciate the magnitude of the responsibility we all shoulder truly and faithfully vis-a-vis our fraternal Maghreb peoples who are looking forward to practical unionist-seeking achievements which will reflect directly on their everyday life. We have firm conviction that our unionist march is proceeding along the straight path, being motivated by a sincere leading will which is inspired by our peoples' historic ambitions. [passage omitted]

We have submitted for discussion the question of indebtedness, which is obstructing our development march and is consuming a large part of the sources of our self-financing in the majority of our countries. We have proposed to the EEC to discuss this problem on a Maghreb level. We have also proposed the establishment of a fund for the development of the union's member-states to be financed by the payments due on their debts to the EEC member-states. We have reaffirmed in the course of these endeavors the resolve of our countries to depend on their own energy in order to contribute toward solving this very difficult problem. Likewise, and out of an eagerness to defend the rights of our Maghreb community in Europe and to protect its security and interests out of our consideration of the reflections which it may endure as a result of the transformations which are taking place there, we have made the EEC countries aware this problem and invited them to conclude a pact with our union to protect our community's interests and provide the necessary security for it. [passage omitted]

JANA on Opening Session

LD2307093290 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, Nasser [July] 23, Jamahiriya News Agency—The leader of the revolution attended yesterday the opening session of the 2nd session of the council of the chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union in the presence of Presidents Bendjedid of Algeria, Ben Ali of Tunisia, Taya of Mauritania, and King Hassan II of Morocco.

Opening this session President Ben Ali [words indistinct] the previous session, enumerated the achievements accomplished by this union ever since its inception. He pointed out that it endeavored to proceed forward to complement the structure of its establishments and commissions. Several committees were set up, ministerial ones, to implement the programmes of the action of the Union in various vital spheres.

An agreement in principle was reached to implement several projects at the level of this union in the spheres of the basic structure, communications, transport, information and the development of human resources. He stressed the importance of these projects in their role in achieving these objectives.

Then, he let President Bendjedid assume the chairmanship of this session.

President Bendjedid lauded in his speech the achievements brought about by this Union down the road of establishing a borderless Arab Maghreb reconfirming the necessity of closing the ranks to strengthen the pillars of the union on solid foundations giving its strong and correct start.

In its scheduled that this session will be studying various projects and agreements escalating the building of the one Maghreb. [sentence as received] The specialised ministerial committees have prepared the projects of these agreements endorsed by the Ministerial Council of the union which concluded its session Saturday.

When the opening session adjourned, a closed meeting was held attended by the leader of the revolution, President Bendjedid of Algeria, Ben Ali of Tunisia, Taya of Mauritania and King Hassan II of Morocco.

The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation and the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco.

Palestinian Affairs

Commentary on Aren's Visit to U.S.

JN2207083190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1851 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Commentary by the "political editor": "Surprise Visit and Foreseen Probabilities"]

[Text] Without doubt, the Israeli war minister's surprise visit to Washington today has serious ramifications in terms of its nature, timing, and aims, and given the lukewarm Arab reaction. The surprise visit comes at a time when Zionist statements and preparations are being made to launch expected wars against the Arab nation in more than one direction. Yesterday's raid on the Palestinian revolution's positions in southern Lebanon is only one link in this chain.

The visit comes after enemy Foreign Minister David Levi's statement in which he removed any ambiguity regarding the fabricated differences between American and Zionist attitudes concerning alleged peace efforts. Levi said that the reported tension in these relations is imaginary and fabricated and has no basis in truth. He said Israel and the United States are friends.

Therefore, Arens, the architect of the strategic Zionist alliance with the U.S. Administration, will for his part find that the identity of their policies is axiomatic. Moreover, the visit represents the first talks between the two sides since the formation of the Zionist war cabinet 40 days ago.

In addition to the recent series of repressive measures that Arens introduced into the Zionist terror program to deal with the brave intifadah, the terrorist Sharon's measures to beef up Zionist settlements in occupied Palestine, and U.S. support, encouragement, and financing—which are now taken for granted—to fulfill these two aims, the Zionist war ministry spokesman has said that Arens will discuss with his U.S. counterpart, Richard Cheney, issues connected with strategic cooperation and security problems related to bilateral relations. Naturally, the issue of anti-missile missiles and the Zionist role in the so-called Star Wars program will top the agenda, concentrating on joint action in the Middle East.

If we recall, the U.S. chief of staff [title as heard] has just ended a visit to the Zionist entity, during which he attended intensive maneuvers by large sectors and various formations of the enemy army, we may expect the following results from Arens' surprise visit:

1. Raising the level of the alliance to an identity of the two sides' policies [as heard] in the Arab region and making aggressive military coordination the basis and substance of any future talks on the peace process. Richard Cheney already confirmed this trend to the American-Zionist AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] organization two months ago.

2. Strengthening and beefing up Zionist military equipment reserves and logistical facilities of the U.S. fleet in Israel's harbors and airports and raising the level of joint military maneuvers between the two.

3. Coordinating joint policies, especially those concerning the propagation of war hysteria and tension with the aim of concealing military preparations for a surprise strike against selected targets in the Arab region.

This is part of what can be discerned from the headlines of the visit and from Arens' activity in Washington. However, the visit portends other dangers inherent in American-Zionist coordination and cooperation, particularly their plans to undermine the brave intifadah and the Palestinian people's achievements under the PLO leadership and to abort the Baghdad summit resolutions before they are implemented and before Arab solidarity is made a reality. The current phase requires alertness and preparedness to face what we expect from the surprise visit.

'Arafat Sends Letter to Mubarak, Plans Visit

JN2007142190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo say that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has briefed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the deliberations of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. 'Arafat denied Egyptian media reports that he had criticized the Egyptian role in the Palestinian issue.

In a letter sent to Mubarak yesterday, 'Arafat expressed the PLO's appreciation of Egypt's efforts to establish a just peace in the region. He appealed to President Mubarak to continue these efforts by urging all international powers to press Israel into recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Yesterday, 'Arafat received the Egyptian ambassador in Tunis and discussed developments in Egyptian-Palestinian ties. The sources said that 'Arafat informed the Egyptian ambassador of his desire to visit Cairo next Sunday [22 July] and to participate in the 38th anniversary celebrations of the 23 July revolution.

An official Egyptian source yesterday rejected statements by certain Arab elements [not further identified] at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis, noting that Egypt has devoted all of its economic resources and the bulk of its manpower for the sake of liberating the usurped land.

The PLO also issued a statement this morning asserting that some media had distorted the speech made by 'Arafat at the Arab League council emergency session. The statement included a summary of 'Arafat's speech.

Message Termed 'Urgent, Important'

JN2007165290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, received yesterday in Tunis Egyptian Ambassador 'Ali Mahir.

Brother Abu-'Ammar handed the ambassador an urgent, important message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak dealing with the results of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting held recently in Tunis.

'Arafat Said To Visit 'Soon'

NC2207100690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that Palestinian officials, especially Yasir 'Arafat, want to maintain strong relations with their eldest sister Egypt.

In a statement to MENA, Sha'th said 'Arafat will visit Egypt soon. He added that 'Arafat has not changed his mind about meeting with President Husni Mubarak as previously agreed upon.

Sha'th explained that in his speech before the Arab foreign ministers conference, 'Arafat referred to the issue of dams in Ethiopia. This was in the course of 'Arafat's explanation about the dangers of stealing Arab water, the water war which Israel is launching against the Arabs, and the U.S. onslaught against the interests and national aspirations of the Palestinian and Arab people.

Sha'th indicated that the PLO always strives to achieve the unity of Arab ranks.

'Arafat Cancels Visit

JN2207063090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has canceled a visit to Egypt scheduled for today following a deterioration in his relations with Egypt. Meanwhile, Egyptian papers today continued the campaign of sharp criticism against 'Arafat and suggested that he stay away from Cairo for ten years because of his accusation that Egypt connived with the United States against the Palestinians.

Official on Dialogue, 'Summer Cloud' With Egypt

JN2307094690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (WAKH)—Palestinian presidential adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th has declared that the PLO probe into the Jerusalem operation is the only way the American-Palestinian dialogue can resume. He stated that it is very unfair to say that the Palestinian political move has failed. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, Dr. Sha'th said that the present crisis between the PLO and Egypt is only a summer cloud. He added that so far Egyptian officials have not informed the PLO about what took place between the Egyptian and Syrian presidents with regard to Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation. He noted that President al-Asad's statements on the peace process and Syria's role in this process are important.

Dr. Sha'th noted in his statement that the U.S. Administration froze dialogue with the PLO to avoid severing it. He added that the expected meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi will evince whether the U.S. Administration will return to its old ways or follow new ones.

On another subject, Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will hold a session before November at the latest. He ruled out any changes in the Palestinian political program during the next PNC session.

Egypt Asked To Lift Ban on Palestinian Figures

JN2007172790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the PLO recently asked the [Egyptian] Government to lift the ban on some Palestinian figures' entry into Egypt. The PLO also emphasized the need for the names of these people to be deleted from the list of those banned from entering Egypt, especially since the Arab League General Secretariat will return to Egypt soon and because of the large number of Palestinians working at the Secretariat who will want to be accompanied by their families when they move to Egypt.

Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Abu-al-Hawl, PLO Executive Committee member and official in charge of security, recently discussed with Interior Minister Major General

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa ways of facilitating visits by Palestinians from the Arab states and Gaza to Egypt and provisions required for the Palestinians who will reside in Egypt.

The Palestine Affairs Committee at the Foreign Ministry will also meet shortly. By virtue of Egypt's responsibility for administering the Gaza Strip and in light of the fact that the Gaza Strip administrative governor resides in Cairo, officials from several ministries and Egyptian authorities concerned with Palestinian affairs will take part in this meeting to discuss the requirements of the Palestinian students in Egypt and those of the Gaza Strip citizens. They will also discuss the establishment of a branch office [not further identified] in the Sinai.

Spokesman on 'Arafat Speech to Arab League

JN2007174890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] An official source at the PLO has stated the following:

Some media have attempted to misinterpret brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] speech at the Arab League Council emergency session held in Tunis on 15 July 1990. The PLO wishes to clarify the following:

In his speech, brother Abu-'Ammar concentrated on the dangers surrounding the Arab world and their gravity, which affects all Arabs. Brother Abu-'Ammar referred specifically to the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the dangers of this immigration—not only to Palestine and the Palestinian people alone, but the to entire Arab world. The Arabs must confront this danger with an appropriate amount of concern and seriousness.

In this regard, he mentioned that the Zionist movement in the 1930's demanded that Jews be allowed to pray before the Wailing Wall to deceive Arab and world public opinion and gain their support. The world saw in 1967 how Israel occupied the land from al-Qantarah to al-Qunaytirah. Today, Israel confirms the threat it poses to the Arab world through immigration and expansion to establish a greater Israel. This is what brother Abu-'Ammar enunciated in the last Arab summit conference in Baghdad by producing documents and pictures. He also affirmed this recently at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, which included his presentation of the document published by the Israeli media about setting up Solomon's Temple in place of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in holy Jerusalem in defiance of Arab and Muslim feelings.

In his speech, brother Abu-'Ammar also dealt with the dangers of stealing Arab waters and what he termed the water war, which is being waged against the Arabs—whether it be the waters of the Litani and Banyas rivers in Lebanon, the Yarmuk River waters between Jordan and Syria, or the sources of the Nile, as well as the depletion of the subterranean waters in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Brother Abu-'Ammar's speech concentrated on the dangers and threats the Arab nation is being subjected to, and on the fact that there is no Arab country which is not affected by these threats and dangers at a time when Israel receives unlimited support and backing from the U.S. Administration to continue its aggressive and expansionist policy. Brother Abu-'Ammar called on all Arab countries to beware of these dangers and be ready to confront them.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also denied that he had insulted the deceased Egyptian national leader Mustafa al-Nahhas in any way—a leader whom the Palestinian leadership and people value and whose stands they appreciate, as well as the Wafd Party's national stands on the Palestine question.

'Arafat To Oppose Emigration on E. Europe Tour

PM2207131890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Starts Palestinian Moves in Eastern Europe; Israel Plans To Expand Emigration"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources have said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will make a tour of some Eastern European capitals to make extensive Palestinian moves backed by all Arab states to thwart a new Israeli scheme designed to expand Jewish emigration to Israel by including Jews residing in these European states as well as Soviet Jews.

In the statement the Palestinian source called on the world's states to thwart the new scheme, which is designed to increase the numbers of Jewish emigres and to settle them in the occupied Arab territories. The source described it as a new attempt by the extremist Israeli Government to divide Arab efforts to halt Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel.

The source said that Israel intends to place new obstacles in the way of the peace process in the Middle East and to exploit for its own ends the new changes in Eastern Europe and the rapprochement with Western Europe.

In this connection, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that in the next few weeks Egypt and some Arab capitals will make extensive contacts with the Eastern European states through diplomatic channels to circumvent Zionist propaganda designed to encourage the eastern Jews' return to Israel, whereby the number of Jewish emigres would rise to some 4 million by the year 2000.

An informed source has said that the Arab group at the United Nations will make urgent contacts with the permanent representatives at the General Assembly and with the Security Council's permanent member-states to confront this new move.

The source added that the aim of this is to have the General Assembly issue a resolution demanding that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe be limited, that guarantees be given that they will not settle in the occupied Arab territories—the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—and that observation forces be deployed to ensure the implementation of these guarantees to protect the Palestinian people's rights.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources have announced that important contacts will also be made with the Soviet Union to prevent the Eastern European states from responding to new Israeli pressures and to draw up an urgent plan for Arab counterpropaganda moves. Contacts will be also made with the United States to confront Israel's new expansionist schemes and to extend its efforts to prevent Israel from continuing the mass expulsion of Palestinians from their own territory to Jordan.

PLO Reacts to Reports on Iran Contacts

JN2007180090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] In response to some distorted reports which attempted to pervert the understanding of contacts that took place between the Palestinian and Iranian leaderships and between brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and officials in Iran regarding the situation in Lebanon, a responsible source in the PLO has said that the Palestinian leadership affirms first that there is no truth to what has been published, and that it is pure fabrication.

It also affirms its appreciation of the negotiations and efforts by the Iranian president personally and the Iranian leadership to stop the bloodshed in southern Lebanon and clashes between Hizballah and Amal. He added that the Palestinian leadership and brother Abu-'Ammar will continue contacts with the Iranian leadership and president to put an end to these clashes in the south to serve the interests of the Lebanese people, especially their sons in the southern part, and to stop the bloodshed.

PLO Factions Condemn Expansion in Lebanon

NC2007074490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP—GC] has strongly condemned the pro-'Arafat intervention in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Abu-Rushdi [real name unknown], a member of the PFLP—GC command, said that the current expansion is not Palestinian as such, but an action carried out by a suspect Palestinian group. He added: We in the PFLP—GC oppose the internecine fighting and refuse to be part of it, particularly since there is a Syrian-Iranian initiative to stop it. We have blessed this initiative and supported it with all our resources. Abu-Rushdi appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and all Islamic and nationalist forces to end the tragic situation resulting from the fighting among brothers in arms.

Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Central Committee of Fatah—The Uprising, has condemned the suspect pro-'Arafat intervention. He warned that this will involve the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian masses in Lebanon in a conflict that does not serve their interests or those of the Lebanese people. Abu-Musa called on all Lebanese and Palestinian patriotic forces to shoulder their responsibility vis-a-vis the irresponsible pro-'Arafat acts in the South. He added that such irresponsibility has caused great damage to the Palestinian and Lebanese in the past.

Fatah Leaders To Review Changing Situation

PM2007150190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 4

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Hani al-Hasan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Fatah Central Committee And Revolutionary Council Convene To Study Obstacles Facing Peace"]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It has been decided to hold a Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis at the beginning of next week to be followed by a Fatah Revolutionary Council session.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Mr. Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Fatah leaderships are studying all the present conditions which actually require thorough examination in order to assess these conditions and determine how they can be dealt with. He pointed out that ways of escalating and developing the people's intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories will be at the forefront of the priorities to be studied by the Fatah leaders in Tunis. The two meetings, he said, will also study all the obstacles facing the peace process in the region, the recent U.S. position on the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, and ways of reactivating the situation as well as Arab and European interest in the peace issue in the region.

Mr. Hani al-Hasan revealed that there is no "Arab desire" to host the Palestinian research center destroyed by the Israelis following the process of exchanging prisoners between the PLO and Israel via the International Red Cross in 1985.

He said: Since we moved out of Beirut, all we have studied is the alternative Arab location for the Palestinian research center. Some contacts were made with some Arab states, but we have received no response with regard to hosting the center, which is temporarily based in Cyprus. [passage omitted]

FRC Official Comments on Palestinian Expansion

NC1907174790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Bajis Hamdan, official spokesman for Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC] called on Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli today. He said the Palestinian expansion in Iqlim al-Tuffah aims to impose the fait accompli to enable the 'Arafat-led Fatah to carry out the mission entrusted to it by the U.S.-Zionist alliance. This mission, he said, is to deal a blow to and cause confusion among the nationalist and Islamic armed resistance, Palestinian and Lebanese alike. The ultimate aim is to prevent the resistance from performing the duty of fighting the Zionist enemy and its agents.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit by Syria's Tariq 'Aziz

Saddam Phones Mubarak

JN2107183690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will arrive in Cairo tomorrow with a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The Iraqi president today telephoned President Mubarak and reviewed with him regional developments led by the crisis between Iraq and both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Within this framework and according to informed Arab sources in Cairo, President Mubarak stressed the need to end tension among the three Arab countries peacefully through direct negotiations. He expressed his willingness to participate in any direct meetings aimed at finding an urgent solution to the crisis. The sources indicated that President Saddam explained to President Mubarak the reasons that prompted Iraq to declare its recent position and welcomed the Egyptian mediation in this regard. He stressed that Iraq is in dire need of the unity of ranks in the face of the dangers posed to pan-Arab security.

The two presidents also discussed the tension caused by the Iraqi foreign minister's statement at the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis. The Iraqi president stressed that the statements were misconstrued and that Iraq has repeatedly emphasized Egypt's strong, effective role in the service of the Arab causes. He informed President Mubarak of his decision to send Tariq 'Aziz to Cairo to discuss all these matters. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Arrives in Cairo

NC2207094590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo this morning.

He was met at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Nabil Najm, the Iraqi ambassador to Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Iraqi Minister

NC2207111990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 July (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Cairo today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Nabil Najm, the Iraqi ambassador to Egypt.

Egypt Drafts Plan for Gulf Dispute

NC2307083290 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 23 (AFP)—Egypt has drafted a four-point plan to resolve an increasingly bitter row between Iraq and its Gulf neighbors Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), press reports said here Monday.

The plan was presented to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz during talks in Cairo Sunday with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, according to the reports.

Mr. 'Aziz and Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid are to join Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan in Alexandria later Monday for urgent talks on the dispute, which erupted following Iraqi accusations last week.

Baghdad has accused Kuwait of encroaching on its territory, illegally drawing off some 2.4 billion dollars worth of oil from an Iraqi field and joining the UAE in flooding oil markets in order to reduce Iraqi oil rvenue. Kuwait and the UAE have denied the charges and Kuwait in turn has accused Iraq of pumping oil from Kuwaiti wells.

The reported Egyptian plan calls for Iraq and Kuwait to renounce any recourse to military action and expresses Egypt's readiness to act as a mediator in the dispute. It proposes a meeting in Cairo of the Kuwaiti, Iraqi and UAE foreign ministers, along with those of other major Arab states, in a bid to bury the conflict before an Arab summit in the Egyptian capital this November. The proposal, finally, appeals for an immediate end to hostile press comment among the three parties to the feud.

The Kuwaiti cabinet on Sunday appealed to Iraq to heed Arab mediation efforts and stressed that the dispute must be settled within the Arab League.

Mr. 'Aziz after talks earlier Sunday with President Mubarak denied that any threats had been made against Kuwait and the UAE. "They are the ones threatening us," he said. "We are threatening nobody."

'Aziz Comments After Meeting Mubarak

NC2207140090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Tariz 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this afternoon. The meeting, which was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo lasted for approximately 75 minutes.

In a statement after the meeting, 'Aziz said he had been honored by his meeting with President Mubarak today, and that he had given Mubarak an oral message from his brother President Saddam Husayn. The message concerns the fraternal and close relations between Iraq and Egypt as well as recent developments in the region, he said, particularly with respect to the memorandum I handed to the Arab League secretary general a few days ago regarding the practices undertaken by the Governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates against Iraq. This is the substance of the message that I conveyed to President Mubarak. I am extremely satisfied with the brotherly atmosphere that prevailed during my meeting with his excellency the president, as well as with his understanding of the subjects I presented to him.

Asked about media reports concerning his statement in Tunis, 'Aziz said: I made a statement to INA on this issue yesterday. I was really astonished by the media reports. The remarks I made in a closed session of the Arab League Council were misinterpreted. If anyone imagines that the Iraqi foreign minister could say something offensive about Egypt, he is mistaken. Considering the nature of the fraternal and close ties between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak, between Iraq and Egypt, and between myself and my brother Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and in view of the respect I and my brothers in Iraq have for His Excellency President Mubarak, it is impossible for us to say anything offensive about each other. My statement was misinterpreted, but at any rate, this is a closed chapter, and neither I nor my brothers in Egypt have any more to say on the matter.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1230 GMT in a similar report adds: "Asked about Iraq's threats to Kuwait, 'Aziz said: They are the ones who are threatening us. We are not threatening anyone."]

Official on Iraq's Dispute With UAE, Kuwait

NC2207180690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The official talks between President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan will begin tomorrow. The talks will deal with the current Arab developments. Our correspondent has learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will participate in part of these talks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted that Egypt is playing a positive role in settling the dispute between Iraq and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Kuwait in order to serve the interests of all parties and safeguard the unity of Arab ranks. He added that Egypt is very eager to see relations of amity and understanding prevail among all the Arab parties.

In a related issue, Jordanian sources have stated that the purpose of King Husayn's visit to Egypt tomorrow is to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the dispute between Iraq and the UAE and Kuwait.

Official Interviewed on Inter-Arab Relations

JN2207140890 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 11

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, by Yusuf al-Sharif in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] Quite a few topics came up during the meetings between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad—Lebanon, Palestine, the Syrian-Iraqi dispute, and Gulf security against the backdrop of thawing Iraqi-Iranian relations. Can you point out the areas of agreement and whethter certain issues need to be pursued further?

[Al-Baz] These issues were not discussed item by item. They were addressed within a general Arab framework. The presidents approached them from the perspective of fundamental Arab interests and pan-Arab security. The two were at one where pan-Arab interests are concerned and agreed on the right mechanisms to promote pan-Arab security and the need to take a fresh look at key Arab issues. The other issues that figured in their talks, including the changes sweeping the world, were approached by the two presidents in the same spirit.

I dare say the talks were positive with respect to the dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation as the twentieth century draws to a close.

[Al-Sharif] How much common ground was there on these issues?

[Al-Baz] There was a convergence of views on a good many. The Syrians argued the case for Arab solidarity as the gateway to successfully coping with the challenge ahead of us. They also drew a distinction between Arab solidarity as a slogan and as a concrete reality. They further urged that we learn lessons from the past. While stressing the need for a commitment to principles, the Syrians were of the opinion that each state should be expected to act according to its own special circumstances. The Syrians argued that the dispute between Iraq and Syria must be put in the context of pan-Arab solidarity in that it is a marginal row based more on a difference in outlook than a conflict of interests.

[Al-Sharif] What about the current dispute between Syria and the PLO?

[Al-Baz] The dispute between the PLO and Syria is also not a dispute involving a major contradiction. Therefore, the question posed at the talks was: How can we deal with these issues that surface on the local and international arenas? Syria believes, just as we do, that Arabs can provide more protection for Arab strategic interests by making peace, achieving permanent stability in the region, and establishing good, neighborly relations among the Arab parties which can gradually progress on the path of unity. This does not mean that one should endeavor to achieve constitutional unity within a short period of time. Rather, it means phased action that aims to achieve the unity of Arab ranks and establish joint interests which will produce interaction among the Arab peoples. Through this interaction, ties can be established which can preserve themselves and their interests.

It is necessary that this trend and direction not be limited to official and higher levels, but that it also manifest itself on the level of the masses and intellectuals in the first place, because they constitute the tool of change and the means to bring about the concepts and education and forge the nation's conscience. It should also be at the level of various trade unions, student associations, groups, and all classes of people. By this momentum, some kind of qualitative and quantitative interaction can be determined. This interaction will ensure that we can progressively make steps on the path of unity.

[Al-Sharif] To be more precise, what have the two presidents agreed upon regarding the solution to the Syrian-Iraqi dispute and the Syrian-Palestinian dispute?

[Al-Baz] I can say that there was a substantial amount of agreement between the two presidents over this issue. The two viewpoints agreed that the continuation of the dispute between Syria and Iraq will not promote the principal interests of Syria, Iraq, or the Arab nation. Furthermore, the differences that may emerge occasionally between Syria and the PLO are not deep ones. They have to do with certain policies and short-term objectives rather than pan-Arab goals, and do not constitute a major conflict or contradiction. We therefore believe that there is a chance for achieving a solution, beginning with specifying and choosing the appropriate means to discuss all aspects of each question at a time, and then resolving it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Does Egypt believe that there can be a harmonious balance between the rebuilding of Lebanon and the Syrian presence there?

[Al-Baz] We agree with the Syrian party on the issue of rebuilding Lebanon. The understanding we reached during the talks was that Syria is not looking forward to continuing its military presence in Lebanon, but is eager to provide the conditions that will allow it to leave Lebanon. We also share Syria's view that its presence in Lebanon cannot be equated with the Israeli presence. The Israeli presence constitutes an aggression, and does not seek the interest of Lebanon at all. It is also considered a threat against Lebanese and Arab national security. Syria's presence is not considered a threat to Arab national security, but to some extent a restriction on the Lebanese movement, or a tool to maintain a balance and apply pressure sometimes. However, it became apparent from our intensive talks with the Syrian brothers that they are not at all interested in prolonging their military presence in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] There is talk now about an impending summit meeting between President al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn in Cairo. Is this true?

[Al-Baz] I believe that this is premature, and the issue is not about a summit meeting. The issue covers major points that will be discussed and on whose basis the Syrian-Iraqi meeting should take place, taking into consideration the past bitter experience and how to tackle it. Based on this experience, we should realize that necessary and appropriate objectives should be based on the present and future to define the points from which we can initiate our action. There is also a new positive and basic factor; namely, the suspension of media campaigns between the two sides. This is an important point to be added to the credit of Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad. By doing this, they have contributed to the achievement of a comprehensive reconciliation in the near future. This also contributes to defining their points of contention calmly and quietly and to determining whether these differences are fundamental so that the two sides will be able to devote their time to political action that will secure the achievement of the comprehensive pan-Arab reconciliation.

[Al-Sharif] Has Egypt defined any strategy to resolve the problem?

[Al-Baz] There is an Egyptian viewpoint which we are communicating to both sides. The issue is not an Egyptian role in the form of a magic wand that can gather the Arab brothers and resolve Arab problems. However, the two sides have now reached the realization that the time is ripe for finding the road to reconciliation. The two sides intend to proceed toward reconciliation. This is why we believe that, despite their bitterness and the difficulty of the situation, the political and popular leaderships in both countries have a positive approach and this will manifest itself with their arrival at the beginning of the road in a short time.

[Al-Sharif] What are Egypt's efforts in this regard?

[Al-Baz] We basically convey each side's opinions and views on the basic points for reconciliation. This situation is a difficult one, because each side has its own basic points and priorities that might be different from the other's. So, how do you deal with such a situation? We are trying to encompass all of these issues. Basically, the two sides should have the desire, which actually exists. This encourages us to play our role, which we hope will succeed, along with other Arab efforts. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] What are the Syrian conditions that President al- Asad sets for participating in peace efforts and the international conference?

[Al-Baz] We understand that Syria sets no new conditions different from what is actually included in international resolutions in this regard. All that Syria wants is for all the parties concerned to have an approach toward a comprehensive settlement and not a partial one; that all concerned Arab parties participate in the settlement efforts; and that these efforts be framed within an appropriate international context, namely, Resolution 242, whose most important principle is that of land for peace, Resolution 338, and the recent UN resolutions.

We consider this the legal umbrella that lends legitimacy to the international conference. In this respect, we agree with Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and Lebanon, in addition to the two superpowers and the other foreign powers, such as Britain, France, and China. In this regard, Syria sets no impossible conditions because it accepts the principle of land for peace in accordance with the international resolutions regarding a comprehensive and just settlement. It also sets no conditions for working together with the Arab parties and with the PLO, Jordan, or any other party.

Mubarak on 'Great Efforts' for Palestinian Cause

NC2207111190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt is undertaking great efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause. He said: We have an obligation, and we have never defaulted on it.

In remarks to newsmen after attending celebrations marking the July revolution anniversary today, President Mubarak said: When I consulted with Palestinian officials on the Egyptian 10-point plan, they approved it, and I then announced the plan. He added: They say that we imposed the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on them. In fact, they requested we bring about this dialogue, and in turn we arranged it.

President Mubarak continued: When they, including the U.S. President, declared that they must condemn it, we told them: Find a solution for this deadlock. [At 1052 GMT on 22 July, Cairo MENA in English carries a Cairo-datelined item which phrases the previous paragraph as follows: "When it was said that an outright condemnation by the Palestine Liberation Organization was required of the beach operation of May 30, it was the American President who publicly asked for such a condemnation President Mubarak said. At that time, we turned to the Palestinians asking them to see how they will respond to that and seek a way out."] But whenever we say something which they ask, foul-mouthed people appear, and none of the officials with whom we agreed wants to speak and say anything. We are puzzled. Anyway, we have an obligation, and we have never defaulted on it.

President Mubarak added: When we want to ask about the efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause, we must ask the owners of the cause themselves because we have never hesitated to exert efforts on behalf of this issue.

Asked whether an international conference will ever be convened, President Mubarak said: This depends on our brothers, the Palestinian officials.

AFP Cites Press Attacks Against 'Arafat

NC2107112190 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 21 (AFP)—Egypt's semi-official press on Saturday carried bitter attacks on PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat for the third day running, accusing him of threatening Arab unity with his criticism of Egypt's ties with the United States.

Newspapers were also critical of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz for reportedly siding with the PLO and accusing Egypt, without naming it, of ignoring its Arab responsibilities.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman is alleged to have said last week that Egypt had endorsed Washington's policy on steps that should be taken by the PLO to ensure the renewal of a U.S-Palestinian dialogue. The dialogue was severed in June after 18 months following an abortive landing raid on Israeli public beaches by a PLO faction. U.S. President George Bush said talks could resume after the PLO denounced the attempted attacks by the radical Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and dismissed its leader Abu Abbas. The PFL leader is member of the PLO's executive committee and has claimed responsibility for the hijacking in 1985 of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro in which an American Jew was killed.

A two-day meeting of the Arab League ministerial council in Tunis last week backed Mr. 'Arafat in rejecting the American conditions and called for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to be resumed on a new basis.

Mr. Bush had charged Mr. 'Arafat with failing to respect a 1988 pledge to renounce terrorism by refusing to denounce the PLF.

According to the Egyptian press Mr. 'Arafat said at the council meeting that Cairo endorsed the latest U.S. position because it totally depended on U.S. aid, namely wheat supplies.

The editorial writer of Akhbar al-Yawm, Mustafa Amin, warned that the latest developments could open up new divisions in the Arab world and said: "We no longer want verbal battles, differences and crises among Arabs."

Samir Rajab of Al-Jumhuriyah linked the alleged 'Arafat statement to what he said were "Palestinian plots aimed against the return of the Arab League hedquarters to Cairo." "They are doing everything to bring back to the surface Arab differences," he added. Arab League headquarters were transferred to Tunis after the signing of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in 1979.

Anis Mansur, editor-in-chief of the ruling party's MAYU publication quoted reports of the state security police saying that "192 Palestinian millionaires residing in Egypt are of Israeli origin," and accused Palestinians of selling their land.

In a wider criticism of Arabs, he added: "The Egyptians do not want the Arab League here and regret that its (former) headquarters are 100 meters (yards) from the Nile, making it difficult to throw it in the river to avoid seeing your faces."

Akbar al-Yawm editor-in-chief Ibrahim Sa'dah said that Mr. 'Arafat was a "billionaire who lived the life of billionaires", adding that verbal attacks by the PLO chairman against Egypt had become "a habit."

He stressed that Egypt "intervened with the American administration to re-launch (in 1988) a dialogue with the PLO, at the latter's pressing request."

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

King Husayn To Visit 24 Jul

NC2107162890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan telephoned President Husni Mubarak at noon today. The two leaders exchanged views on the current developments in the region. King Husayn will pay a brief visit to Egypt on Tuesday, during which he will meet with President Mubarak.

New Arrival Date Set

NC2207120590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan telephoned President Husni Mubarak this afternoon. It was agreed that King Husayn's visit to Egypt will begin tomorrow.

King Husayn Arrives in Alexandria

NC2307091890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Alexandria, 23 Jul (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived at al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria this morning. President Husni Mubarak headed the reception committee.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2207101990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Sahabzada Khan arrived in Cairo this morning on a three-day visit to Egypt. Assistant to the Foreign Minister, Ambassador Yusuf Shararah, and Ambassador Sami Thabit, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, met the Pakistani minister at the airport.

The Pakistani foreign minister expressed his pleasure at being in Cairo and said that the visit is linked to the preparations for the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers conference that will open in Cairo on 31 July. Yaqub Khan said that during his visit he and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will discuss a number of issues of common concern to Pakistan and Egypt, including the Kashmir issue. Khan will also brief Egyptian officials on the outcome of the Indian-Pakistani conference that was held in Islamabad with the aim of resolving the problem of Kashmir and the common borders between India and Pakistan and bringing peace to the region.

Khan said that he and Egyptian officials will also discuss the Middle East problem, the migration of Soviet Jews, the Afghanistan problem, and issues of common concern.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2207172490 Cairo MENA in English 1647 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 22 (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, today conferred with the Pakistani foreign minister who arrived here this morning on a one-day visit. They discussed world issues of common interest and means of boosting bilateral relations. They also reviewed the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers meeting due here on July 31-August 4.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With Sudanese Official

NC2107161490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1406 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, a member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation who is currently visiting Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Izz-al-Din Hamid; Ahmad Ibn-Khalil, head of the Sudan desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry; and Egyptian Ambassador in Sudan Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq.

After the meeting, Col. [Colonel] Muhammad al-Amin said the discussions dealt with issues of common interest, particularly in the field of foreign policy, with the aim of coordinating the two countries' views. He stressed that Egypt and Sudan are an indivisible whole and said that agreement was reached on the positive points that would give an impetus to foreign policy.

Regarding the situation in south Sudan, he said that the national salvation government has raised the banner of dialogue and is willing to follow any road that will lead to peace. He stressed that the Sudanese Government wants to attain peace through dialogue in the belief that the road of violence can only lead to violence.

On the current Arab situation, the Sudanese official said that the present disputes are causing sorrow and that these disputes are the winning cards which the enemies are using against the Arab nation. He appealed to the

Arab nation to unite its efforts and ranks in order to confront the foreign challenges facing it at present.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid hosted a banquet in honor of the Sudanese official at the political club.

Egyptian-Guinean Joint Communique Issued

NC2207152690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt and Guinea have declared their support for the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The two countries expressed their belief that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be attained only by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. They also voiced their belief that convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and with the attendance of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, would provide the most approporiate opportunity to reach a just, peaceful, and comprehensive solution to the issue.

This came in a joint communique signed by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ibrahimi Sylla, Guinean minister of plan and international cooperation.

In the communique, the two countries declared their support for the Namibian Government in safeguarding its independence, and urged Mauritania and Senegal to resolve their differences by peaceful means. They also condemned the policy of apartheid in South Africa and underscored their determination to continue their backing for the South African people in their struggle to establish a free political and democratic system.

The two countries emphasized their determination and desire to intensify bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The two ministers also signed an executive program for technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

UN Envoy Arrives With Message for 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2207063090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2009 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador 'Amr Musa, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, arrived in Cairo today.

In an arrival statement, he said he is bringing a message from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the situation in the Middle East and in the occupied territories, as well as on current efforts to propel the peace process. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Cables Mubarak on Revolution Day

NC2207143290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a congratulatory cable from Supreme Soviet Chairman President Mikhail Gorbachev today on the 38th anniversary of the 23 July revolution. The text of the cable is as follows:

I am pleased to send you, your excellency the president, and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the July 1952 revolution.

I am quite certain that the recent progress in Egyptian-Soviet ties, as well as the meetings we had with you in Moscow, will open new prospects for further consolidating the friendship and deepening the political dialogue and comprehensive cooperation between our peoples. Kindly accept, Mr. President, my wishes for your excellency's good health and happiness and for the prosperity and progress of the Egyptian people.

Mauritania

President Taya Leaves for Algiers Maghreb Summit

AB2107173890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The Presidency of the Military Committee of National Salvation, CMSN, announces that Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, left Nouakchott for Algiers this morning to attend the heads of state summit of the Arab Maghreb Union. [passage omitted]

In the absence of the head of state, the overseeing of ongoing affairs is entrusted to Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, member of the CMSN and national chief of defense staff.

Commentary Warns 'Instigators of Tribalism'

AB2007182190 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 19 Jul 90

[MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY commentary]

[Text] Tribalism no longer has any justification in the present era. Those who commit the error of sticking to it can in no way adapt to the builder-protector state, nor to national unity as an antidote to the atomied and anachronistic concept of society. They militate against the tide of history and constitute a major stumbling block to the realization of the common good. Particularism is no longer relevant at this time when the trend is toward the formation of larger regional groupings and when the imperatives of survival enjoin our poor states to unite so as to tackle their destiny and carve out a respectable place in the immense global village which the world has become today.

Under the circumstances, it is simply mean and indecent to nurture selfishness by by fanning the flames of tribal conflicts. Thus, it is regretable that tribalism should still have its adepts, who are often active and sometimes include enlightened citizens who never fail to conceal their real nature by acting under the pretext of patriotism.

The instigators of tribalism have, in any case, almost more than ever before reached their goal with the approach of the municipal elections next December. They constitute, unless they are exposed and combatted, a real threat which weighs heavily on democracy; for just as those elected should not be imposed on anyone, the electorate should similarly be able to vote for programs rather than individuals. This is the only way that they can feel they are the builders of the nation's destiny.

The stake is therefore high, for it is a matter of safeguarding the perpetuity of our nation, which, unless it wants to be wiped out, cannot continue to neglect the state, which, in fact, emanates from the entire society. The tribe—which can guarantee neither health, nor education, nor the citizens' security—definitely finds itself at the antipodes of progress, since it hinders the consolidation of the state and undermines the social setup.

Hence, all honest citizens have a duty to combat tribalism and bar the route to those, very numerous today, who find in it a means to attain their selfish ends. The building of a worthy nation capable of meeting all challenges is at this price, and each person is duty-bound to contribute by rising above his own instincts and moving in the direction of history.

Tunisia

Kuwaiti Envoy Brings Message on Iraqi Complaint

LD2207090790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0749 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 22 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti special envoy Dhari 'Abdullah al-'Uthman conveyed a letter from H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to the Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Saturday [21 July]. The letter was received by the Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed el-Karoui last night during a meeting with al-'Uthman who is the justice and legal affairs minister in Kuwait. The letter explained Kuwait's position towards the Iraqi complaing against its oil policies that was presented last week to the Arab League.

The Tunisian president was unable to receive the letter due to his departure to Algiers earlier to attend the Arab Maghreb Union summit that is to begin there today.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait's ambassador to Tunis 'Abd-al- Muhsin Nasir al-Ji'ani.

Tunis is al-'Uthman's last stop in his North African tour as part of Kuwait's political drive in the Arab world to refute Iraqi accusations.

Soviet Delegation Holds News Conference

LD1807204490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Wrapping up its recent visit to Tunisia, the Soviet parliamentary delegation held a press conference this morning in which it presented a resume of its contacts with Tunisian and Palestinian officials.

At the beginning of the press conference the members of the delegation pointed out that this visit—which was part of a tour of several North African and Middle Eastern countries—was basically aimed at widening the scope of cooperation, raising the level of relations, and exchanging experiences with other countries in order to benefit from their experience and to open doors for joint action.

The members of the delegation pointed out the similarities between perestroyka and its aims and what happened in Tunisia after the [7 November] consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights.

The members of the delegation expressed Soviet support for the Palestinian issue and the USSR's readiness to coordinate with the Arab countries in order to adopt a united stance on the Palestinian cause and the peace process in the Middle East.

Ben Ali Receives Moroccan Envoy

LD2007153590 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 20 (MAP)—'I conveyed a written message from King Hassan II of Morocco to His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali', Moroccan minister of the interior and information and envoy of the sovereign Driss Basri said here Tuesday [17 July] at the end of an hour meeting with the Tunisian leader.

The message is part of [word indistinct] between the two countries and concerns bilateral relations as well as Maghreban and Arab affairs.

Basri added the meeting was attended by Habib Boulaares [name as received] special advisor minister of President Ben Ali and Moroccan Ambassador to Tunis Abbes al-Fassi. Basri left Tunis at the end of the afternoon.

The same day Basri was received in Tripoli by Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to whom he conveyed another message from the monarch.

On the other hand, adviser to the king Ahmed Reda Guedira was received Thursday afternoon [19 July] in Algiers by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to whom he conveyed a written message from the Moroccan monarch.

Guedira said at the end of the meeting the message concerns bilateral and inter-Maghreban relations adding that the meeting 'exclusively dealt with this subject.'

While in Nouakchott, Mauritanian President Col. Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya Thursday received

Kuwait

Envoy Conveys Message to Perez de Cuellar

LD2007092990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0705 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] United Nations, July 20 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad A. Abu al-Hasan Thursday [19 July] delivered a message from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, a U.N. spokesman said.

The meeting with the U.N. chief executive was at the request of the Kuwaiti envoy, but the U.N. spokesman would not disclose the content of the message.

Kuwait has also sent envoys to Arab countries with letters from H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah on a sudden political crisis between Kuwait and Iraq which surfaced earlier in the week.

Abu al-Hasan also met with the president of the Security Council, currently Malaysia, to inform him about these developments.

Earlier in the day, Shaykh Sabah returned to Kuwait from Oman winding up a tour of the other five Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Shaykh Sabah delivered a message from the amir of Kuwait, explaining the Kuwaiti position on the crisis with Iraq.

Arab League's Chedli Klibi Arrives on Visit

LD2007173990 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived this evening in Kuwait. He was welcomed on arrival at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Foreign Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and a number of senior officials at the ministry.

Confers With Amir, Crown Prince

LD2107104990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on Saturday conferred separately with the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah [title as received].

Klibi arrived here last in the wake of Iraqi accusations against Kuwait over the country's oil production policies and drilling rights. Last Monday [16 July] Iraq lodged a complaint at the Arab League accusing Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of glutting the oil market to drive down prices. Both Kuwait and the UAE vehemently rejected the Iraqi allegations, describing them as intemperate and unfounded.

In a reciprocal move, Kuwait sent a letter to the Arab League denying the allegations and called for setting up of an Arab arbitration committee to consider the oil and border conflict with Iraq.

It is not clear whether Klibi is planned to visit Baghdad for talks on the issue. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud arrived in Baghdad today in an apparent move to engulf the conflict.

Kuwait has launched a diplomatic offensive to counter the Iraqi allegations including sending messages to Arab leaders and the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD2107122190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1154 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait 21 Jul (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred today in Al-Bayan Palace with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

During the meeting they discussed the League's efforts to contain the temporary crisis betwen Iraq and Kuwait.

In his reply to a question by the press, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expresed his conviction that "what is between the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait is merely a summer cloud that will go away."

Government Reacts to Iraq's Arab League Message

Launches 'Diplomatic Offensive'

LD2107100390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, currently here, is bracing to use his good offices in an effort to defuse tension between Kuwait and Iraq, sparked by accusations against Kuwait over border and oil infringements.

Kuwait has emphatically denied the Iraqi charges and instead accused Iraq of encroachments on its territories and called for setting up an Arab arbitration panel to settle the dispute, provoked suddenly by Iraq.

Klibi who arrived here last night is scheduled to meet today with H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah.

It is not clear whether the Arab League chief will visit Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Legal Affairs and Justice Minister Dhari al-'Uthman arrived today in Algiers while State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi is currently in Sanaa within the framework of a Kuwaiti diplomatic offensive to engulf the dispute.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah had conducted a similar mission which covered the fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Shaykh Sabah also sent a memorandum to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the Iraq-Kuwait affair.

Libya has urged the Arab League to form a fact-finding committee on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict while Egypt called for settling Arab differences through quiet dialogue away from any excitement or tension to avert undermining the Arab internal front.

The United Arab Emirates [UAE] which also came under fire from Iraq on alleged oil overproduction to depress prices, rejected the Iraqi charges describing them as unfounded.

In a letter sent to the Arab League the UAE said the situation of international oil market is a collective responsibility of the 13-member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Urges Iraq To Normalize Ties

LD2207162990 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 22 July (KUNA)—While expressing the deepest regret and indignation at the "sudden negative developments" in their relations, Kuwait today urged "the brothers in Iraq" to take "just and practical steps which will contribute to enabling sincere Arab good-offices to contain the crisis in a manner which will safeguard the good relations between the two fraternal countries, lead to the consolidation of the sought-after Arab solidarity, and direct Arab resources and efforts toward achieving the Arab nation's higher interests."

At its ordinary weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, the Kuwait Council of Ministers reviewed the outcome of the contacts and meetings underway within the framework of Kuwaiti diplomatic moves in Arab countries to contain the existing crisis in Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, which followed Iraq's memorandum to the Arab League. The memorandum included "accusations which had no foundations or backing" regarding Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations and Kuwait's entrenched and principled stances toward pan-Arab causes.

The cabinet secretary-general, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi, told the press that the cabinet reviewed the substance of the negotiations that took place over here with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in which he clarified the Kuwaiti point of view regarding the "regrettable development" in relations with Iraq.

He added that the cabinet discussed the tour of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, deputy prime minster and minister of foreign affairs, to the Gulf Cooperation Council states, during which he conveyed messages to the leaders of these countries from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, "concerning the latest Iraqi position and the negative results and repercussions that it may have at various levels."

He said that the cabinet reviewed the Arab reactions in light of the reports delivered by the amir's envoys to the leaders of Arab countries.

He added: The cabinet expressed satisfaction with the positive and constructive stances expressed by the brotherly Arab countries, their praise and respect for the wise path adopted by Kuwait to face up to this development. The Kuwaiti path seeks to settle this issue within the framework of the Arab house and the Arab League out of its belief that this is the natural forum to discuss and solve all problems and differences among brothers.

Envoy Delivers Message to 'Arafat

LD2307084290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0758 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 23 (KUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has received a message last night from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah on the recent dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.

The message was delivered to 'Arafat by the special envoy of Kuwait's amir, minister of justice and legal affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman during his meeting with the Palestinian president. Following his meeting with 'Arafat, al-'Uthman told KUNA that the message includes Kuwait's position on latest developments in the Arab arena and necessity to move at the Arab level to contain any accidental crisis among brothers.

The message is one of several sent by the amir of Kuwait to the leaders of Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia during the past few days, al-'Uthman added. He noted that he found positive response and understanding by Arab leaders he has met toward the Kuwaiti move aimed in the first degree at resolving the dispute that resulted from the recent Iraqi memo on relations with Kuwait and UAE.

Kuwait worked and is still working to clarify the Arab atmosphere and to provide the suitable climate for developing and strengthening brotherly ties among Arab countries to serve higher interests of the Arab nation, he added. The Kuwaiti envoy expressed hope that the crisis between the two countries would be as a passing summer cloud.

Pan-Arab Approach Stressed

LD2307085790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0726 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 23 (KUNA)—Kuwait had denied it was trying to internationalize its dispute with Iraq and expressed hope that a settlement would be sought and reached within the premises of the Arab League.

An official source Sunday said Kuwait had presented a memo to the United Nations secretary general on the crisis, with the sole purpose of informing the U.N. chief on the dispute in accordance with customary international practice. The source indicated he was replying to an earlier statement by an Iraqi spokesman who said that Kuwait, by sending a memo to the U.N. chief on the row, was seeking to internationalize the issue.

"We stress again that when Kuwait presented this memo (to the U.N.) we never requested that the memo be distributed to member states, nor did we seek any action in this regard on the part of the U.N. secretary general," the source said.

Last Monday Iraq sent to the Arab League a complaint accusing Kuwait of seeking to undermine Iraq's economy by flooding the oil market and exploiting a joint border area. Kuwait immediately refuted the charges. The official Kuwaiti source said Kuwait sent to the Arab League a reply memo stressing Kuwait's commitment to the League's charter and its keen interest in solving such a problem "among brothers" within the League's framework. Acting on its national principles, Kuwait sent Amiri envoys to Arab leaders to outline the country's position on the issue, the source noted.

He also pointed out that Kuwait demonstrated its unquestionable pan-Arab commitment when it called for the creation of an Arab arbitration panel to demarcate the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border on basis of existing treaties and documents signed by the two countries.

The source also noted that in addition to its contacts with Arab countries over the row, Kuwait has received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in the past 24 hours in part of the League's efforts to contain the issue.

Kuwait, finding itself obliged to respond publicly to the statement of the official Iraqi spokesman, hopes that the issue would be "positively treated with the Arab League's framework, away from such public statement that would only serve to infringe on the fraternal and amicable nature of ties that Kuwait seeks to keep sound and firm among brothers," the source concluded.

National Council Speaker Comments

LD2307091690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0708 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Vienna, July 23 (KUNA)—Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Council 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Misa'id was quoted as saying that a speedy settlement to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi differences was feasible.

In a press statement released in East Germany and monitored here yesterday, al-Misa'id said that his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah had proposed the formation of an independent Arab League committee grouping three or four foreign ministers.

Al-Misa'id said that the amiri proposal was contained in messages dispatched to leaders of the Arab countries through personal envoys.

He noted that the League was currently discussing the formation of that committee which is to supervise the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders based on historical documents.

Meanwhile, the media in Austria and other East European nations continued to highlight the current tension in the two Arab neighbors' relations which erupted last week following Iraqi claims of Kuwaiti violation of common borders.

Parliamentarians To Visit Capitals

LD2307102990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0924 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 23 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation is to visit Arab capitals to back up the government's diplomatic offensive with regard to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, reported an influential local daily on Monday. AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM newspaper quoted parliamentary sources as saying the idea will (?be) tabled before the National Council for approval in its Tuesday's session.

In the wake of the dispute, triggered by Iraq's complaint to the Arab League over alleged oil overproduction, Kuwait called on the Arab League to set up an arbitration committee to contain the crisis.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed delivered messages from the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Two other ministers are roving the rest of Arab countries to deliver similar messages.

Trade Unions Federation Urges Iraq Dialogue

LD2007205690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1942 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Trade Unions Federation has strongly denounced Iraqi accusations and serious threats against the country, saying they are tantamount to direct military action.

"We are more astonished that such threats and accusations come from Iraq which publicly announces that it is for Arab detente and solidarity and at a time the Iraqi media are heaping praise on Kuwait's stands towards Iraq particularly during the eight years of (Gulf) war," said a KTUF statement issued here tonight.

"We are not here to recall neither the financial assistance extended by Kuwait nor the sacrifices incurred by the Kuwaiti people because we believe this is our national obligation and we refrain from reminding brothers of what we had done to them," the statement added.

The statement added that accusations, tirades and intemperate [words indistinct] not solve differences between brothers unless there are other intentions which the paper doubted their existence.

"Based on this fact and in the name of the spirit of Arab fraternity and good neighbourliness, we urge the officials in sisterly Iraq and President Saddam Husayn in particular to exert efforts for [word indistinct] meetings and sincere dialogue to settle the existing difference regarding oil issues or demarcation."

The statement suggested that the oil issue could be settled in a friendly way through the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Regarding the question of border demarcation the statement voiced support to the Kuwaiti Government's proposal calling for Arab arbitration and wondered why Iraq settled border issues with Jordan and Saudi Arabia during the war and failed to do so with Kuwait.

"Once again and on the basis of the Iraqi motto which calls for bolstering Arab solidarity and refrainment from raising arms against the brothers, we affirm that resolving differences should by through negotiations and objective dialogue and not through memoranda and accusations," the statement said.

"Let us join forces against our common enemy? Let all guns and missiles be aimed at those who kill the Palestinian children," it concluded.

Press Comment on Iraq Dispute, Arab Solutions

Editorial on War Support to Iraq

JN2007160590 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Language of Facts"]

[Text] The light of truth is bright and clear; it is illuminated by facts, with the backdrop of honest and real documents to increase its brilliance.

The use of threats, whether direct or indirect, yields nothing and rejected. It is a method which many have tried with Kuwait; however, it has proven to be a failure over and over after crashing against the rock of Kuwait's clear, firm policy.

Kuwait's memo to the Arab League yesterday came to reveal the truth, attest to the facts, and state loudly and clearly: "It is truly a sad affair when perverted goals rally to obscure facts and misrepresent the history we are currently experiencing, and which is still alive.

Concealing facts is an easy affair; but turning issues upside down and presenting them in a different light from their brilliant reality is even easier. However, this tactic is always short-lived because history is based on firmly-rooted events and sealing truths which have always been the decisive factors in all issues.

Kuwait's rights to every inch of its dear land is a holy issue which cannot be forfeited, ignored, or used as a threat. Kuwait's right to its national soil—every immaculate grain—is a reality that accepts no bargaining and rejects threats and blackmail. As far as Kuwaitis are concerned, the border issue has been decided upon. There will be no concession of a single grain of sand or clump of soil. The issue can be resolved, as Kuwait announced yesterday, by referring it to an Arab committee which will make a decision on the issue based on the existing treaties and documents between Kuwait and Iraq.

In regard to Kuwait's policies on pan-Arab issues, they are crystal clear to whomever wishes to see the brilliant light of truth. It is enough that Kuwait is at the top of the list of all world countries as regards the generous aid it gives to the developing Arab countries. In fact, it has the highest percentage of donations and aid in comparison to its national income.

We demanded yesterday that Kuwait declare in figures and statistics the aid it presented Iraq with throughout the years of the Gulf war. If Kuwait felt embarrased to mention this in its memo to the Arab League—stemming from its Arab spirit of nobility which it believes in and adheres to—we still insist and urge that Kuwait present the whole world with the facts of this aid, which it considered a national duty before anything else.

We are still wondering with great surprise and astonishment why this sudden brouhaha has been created, with all its perverted facts and false claims. And why is this taking place at the current time, which requires more than at any other time the unity and solidarity of the Arab world, especially as it is dealing with enough hot issues and long-term crises? Since Kuwait has always been the initiator in solving Arab crises and putting out the fires of Arab disputes, it never once occured to it that it would be dragged into being a party to a fabricated problem whose instigation and creation does not serve the Arab nation or the Gulf region in general—especially as Kuwait views the peace detente as a basis for turning over a new leaf based on good-neighborliness between Iraq and Iran after long, tiring years of a fierce war.

Regardless of the situation, and despite all Kuwait's concern over solving the Arab crisis as soon as possible and through sensible dialogue, and irrespective of whether it is a party in this conflict itself or not, it must be made crystal clear that Kuwait does not forfeit its principles; it does not bargain over its rights; it does not accept any interference in its sovereignty; it does not give in to threats or blackmail; and it does not surrender to pressures, whether direct or concealed. These are historic facts, and history has always been true in the past, present, and future.

Iraq Accusations 'Unfounded'

LD2207093290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0752 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 22 (KUNA)—The local dailies Sunday voiced optimism that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute will be settled soon.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that Kuwait is not the country that attacks Iraq and the charges raised against Kuwait by Iraq are unfounded. The paper said that Kuwait's nature is to avoid aggression and has always called for finding a final solution to the border problem between Kuwait and Iraq.

AL-RA'Y added that regarding the oil issue, both Kuwait and Iraq are members in one organization, OPEC, therefore their problems should be solved within this body without the need to harm each other.

The Kuwaiti daily said that Kuwait is optimistic that its Arab brothers will be able to encircle this problem and find the appropriate solution. The daily supported Kuwait's recommendation to the Arab League to form an Arab committee to discuss the border problem between Kuwait and Iraq.

Meanwhile, daily AL-ANBA' said the Kuwait's history proves that Kuwait could overcome all obstacles and problems due to two main reasons. These reasons, the paper went on, are the wisdom of its leadership and the unity of its people and their support to their leadership. Kuwait's wisdom is the fact that made Kuwait occupy a distinguished position at the Arab and international levels, AL-ANBA' affirmed.

This wisdom has also enabled Kuwait to play effective and successful roles in solving several crises that faced the region, the daily asserted. The newspaper expressed confidence that this "temporary crisis" Kuwait is facing will be settled soon, noting that Kuwait chose dialogue as means to solve the problem.

Daily AL-SIYASAH strongly called for a peaceful dialogue to solve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi problem. The daily also advised against a "hasty decision", and emphasized on patience as "an attitude that will contain the problem and avoid inflaming the issue".

Regarding the problem which Iraq aroused against Kuwait regarding oil production, daily AL-SIYASAH said "if one state is unable to export its quota of oil, the responsibility for this should not be apportioned out to others." The paper pointed out that "Kuwait has all along resisted attempts to reduce oil prices. A look at the deficit of our budget is all it takes to prove this point."

The daily also affirmed that Kuwait is committed to the country's and Arab obligations, expressing hope that Arab good-offices will come out with something to solve the problem.

Pan-Arab Considerations Urged

JN2207174390 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Jul 90 pp 1, 20

[Ahmad al-Raba'i article: "Away From Details]

[Text] Important as the Iraqi memorandum is to the Arab League, oil production, and the border issue, it is of vital importance that the crisis between Kuwait and Iraq be defused. More than anything else, this means that we should make sure the problem remains a domestic Arab affair off limits to such gloaters as the United States and Israel. The problem had best not be internationalized.

It is in our best interests that we do not realize our enemies' dreams for them, nor open a fresh wound in an already heavily wounded Arab body. One would have thought that the recent emergency Baghdad summit ushered in a new era of rational inter-Arab relations, and that the Arabs have, after all, understood that only by making a team effort and renouncing provocations and threats of force can intra-Arab problems be resolved. Across the Arab homeland, hundreds of thousands have lost their lives fighting inter-Arab wars, thus playing into the hands of common enemies that were only too happy to pour oil on Arab fires.

The crisis is about two things: Oil and borders. These two issues cannot possibly remain unsolved forever if the litigants choose to sit down to talks before rushing headlong into recriminations, threats and imputations.

Sisterly Iraq must be aware that the problems it has raised are about the sovereignty of Kuwait, about which the government and people are united. Not that the Kuwaiti Government and people are anti-Iraq; they just cannot afford to be, because any stab at sisterly Iraq will naturally hurt Kuwait.

Being the unionists we are, we are encumbered and agonized by the crisis. We would have expected sisterly Iraq to appreciate the sensitive border issue between two sisterly states. It touches an old raw nerve with the Kuwaitis. It is understandable that the Kuwaitis are so sensitive about the border issue, especially for those in whose minds the crisis sparked off by 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim [in 1961] is still fresh. This is neither the time nor the place to go into the consequences of that episode. While we appreciate that present-day Iraq is not to be held accountable for that episode still etched in the memory of Kuwaitis, we think that it can act differently from previous Iraqi governments by adopting a clear-cut stand on the border issue, and laying to rest whatever lingering doubts the Kuwaitis may harbor.

For us, Arab unity is a question of unavoidable fate. But Arabs must treat one another as equals, without any Arab country overplaying its hand toward a sisterly state. We must also understand that it will not be possible for any Arab country's interests to be realized at the expense of another.

It is vital that every effort must be made, and without delay, to defuse the crisis, and frustrate the gloaters of Washington and Tel Aviv. Iraq and Kuwait would do well to refer their dispute to the Arab League. Only those who want our nation's attention to be deflected from development and construction stand to gain from a flareup.

What we want is for Iraq to act in a spirit of pan-Arab responsibility and let the dispute work itself out at the negotiating table, so we can turn our attention to key issues and build stable societies.

Editorial Urges 'Peaceful Dialogue'

JN2207135490 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 1

[Front-page editorial by Ahmad al-Jarallah entitled: "Don't Hasten Decisions"]

[Text] Calm debate during moments of upsets should be the norm. But who will control the heads that are now aflame with rage?

If there had been an effective Arab mediation system in operation, hope, appropriate recommendations and solutions could have been sought. The flames would not have been fanned and the nation would not now be at their mercy in an unpredictable wind.

Who then, will put out these flames?

Do bilateral communications and consultations exist, or is there a diplomatic offensive to spread the facts essential to refute claims based on evidence. Perhaps, the door of hope will open with this diplomatic mission, bringing in the good offices of men dedicated to finding pragmatic and amicable solutions.

Since the problem has been in abeyance for a period of thirty years, it would be advisable not to hasten decisions in the heat of argument, but instead to be patient. Such an attitude will contain the problem and avoid inflaming the issue—an event none in our country or in the Arab nation would like to witness.

However, in the interim, could we debate some ideas to ease the tension and relax the nerves?

At the outset, we would like to record that we are not in a defensive position, though we have been slandered without regard to any conventions or rules governing relations among member states. We strongly advocate a peaceful dialogue.

When an oil exporting country is unable to export all of its quota due to compelling reasons—such as war—the gap in market demand would not likely be filled by one specific exporting country.

Translated, it means that an increase in oil production in this case would not be confined to a specific country, as international markets receive their requirements from several producing countries. These include both Opec and non-Opec states.

Why, then, have Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates been singled out?

Why has the scope of accusation not been expanded to include, for example, Nigeria, Venezuela or Indonesia who could have bridged the gap in the oil market for their own compelling reasons.

And if one state is unable to export its quota of oil, the responsibility for this should not be apportioned out to others. Obviously, the relevant gap in supply was the result of a policy followed by the owner of the quota.

We are not evaluating the circumstance per se—whether these be nation or regional characteristics. Obviously no one in the Arab nation stood with arms folded during these circumstances.

Possibly such an attitude was witnessed in other oil producing countries—though beyond a doubt not by Kuwait. We are sure that those countries who "stood with arms folded" were not Arab and were not affected by the circumstances surrounding the Arab nation.

In essence, Kuwait stands vindicated as it had been affected by the circumstances and co-operated with others to find solutions to remedy the issue.

Others should be queried as to the increase in their quotas. Kuwait has paid the price for its policy and has been affected. Kuwait has all along resisted attempts to reduce oil prices.

A look at the deficit of our budget is all it takes to prove this point, further buttressed by the need to cover the deficit of the issuance of treasury bills and the floating of other paper.

Any further elaboration, will not serve public interests or that of the nation.

Without elucidating, we would like to proclaim that we are continually striving to uphold Kuwait's national interests as well as those of the Arab nations.

We have no relations with any other policies—either imperialist or otherwise. Our leaders are committed solely to Kuwait and Arab obligations. The question in this connection cannot be amplified and cannot be connected with the implementation of any plot or policy to serve the objectives of any superpower.

On this basis we will go ahead, pending the outcome of diplomatic moves as well as the good offices of Arabs. We firmly believe that "blood will remain blood" and that harmony between slogans and applications will be a reality.

Oman

Iraqi Ambassador Meets Foreign Affairs Official

JN2107180390 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Muscat, July 21 (GNA)—Oman Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur met here today with Iraqi Ambassador to Oman Khalid Salih al-Samarra'i.

The Omani News Agency said the meeting discussed the current misunderstanding between Kuwait and Iraq, relations between Oman and Iraq and issues of common interest.

Qatar

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Iraqi Envoy

JN2107133390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, 21 Jul (WAKH)—Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatari Foreign Ministry undersecretary, met with Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Iraqi ambassador to Qatar, here today.

The Qatari News Agency said that the purpose of the meeting was to seek clarifications on the current misunderstanding between Iraq and Kuwait.

Soviet Economic Relations Official Arrives

JN2207073590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, 21 Jul (WAKH)—Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Doha this evening on a visit to the State of Qatar that will continue until the day after tomorrow, Monday.

QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY] said that the Soviet official will head his country's delegation to official economic talks with the Qatari side with a view to enhancing and developing Qatari-USSR economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

QNA added that the two sides will discuss, among other things, a draft bilateral economic and technical agreement to pave the way for its endorsement by both countries.

Republic of Yemen

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives Carrying Amir's Message

To Discuss Iraqi 'Accusation'

LD2007190890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1732 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Sanaa, July 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait's State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadai arrived here today carrying a message from his highness the amir of Kuwait to President 'Ali Abdallah Salih on the recent Iraqi accusation tabled before the Arab League against Kuwait.

President Salih had made a phone call with His Highness the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah in the wake of the dispute.

Another Kuwaiti envoy, Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman is currently on a similar mission in Arab Maghreb countries.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah had already delivered messages from the amir to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Delivers Message to Salih

JN2107123490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office today brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadai, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who delivered a message to the brother president from his brother His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah on the development of events in the Arab arena and issues of interest to our Arab nation.

The brother president handed message of reply to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. The message reaffirmed our country's concern and commitment to work for everything that would strengthen pan-Arab security and Arab solidarity among all the brothers.

The meeting was attended by brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Ibrahim al-Musa, Kuwaiti ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih Issues Statement on Kuwait-Iraq Dispute

Indicates Support for Iraq

JN2107111790 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 21, INA—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen said his close relationship with President Saddam Husayn was the reflection of brotherly and sincere relations between the Iraqi and Yemeni peoples.

In a press statement published here today by the Iraqi papers of AL-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH, President Salih said relations between the two countries achieved big successes thanks to the leaderships of the two countries and faith of all in common destiny.

He further said that bilateral relations developed for the interest of the two countries due to the continued coordination and consultation that emanate from common understanding to all issues concerning the Arab nation.

The Yemeni president stressed his country's support and solidarity with Iraq against the anti-Iraq information and political campaign and said that this hostile campaign was prompted by Iraq's possession of factors of steadfastness and victory and for achieving tangible scientific and technological accomplishments that boosted its defencive capability which all would pool in strengthening the capability of the Arab nation in confronting dangers and challenges.

President Salih urged the Arab countries to shoulder their responsibility today more than any time before and to stand solidly against challenges and adopt Iraq's course of acquiring mastery of science and knowledge alongside the power of weapon, awareness and construction.

On the Yemeni unity, President Salih said the State of Yemen constitutes a strong factor for boosting stability and security in the region and a solid backing to Arab solidarity during this juncture.

On Palestine issue and current Arab conditions in the light of international changes, President Salih said the Arab nation must intensify its efforts during this stage by backing the Palestine issue and the uprising in the occupied territories for achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and establishing their independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

President Salih described the resolutions of the Baghdad summit as positive and practical that would boost security and stability in the region against challenges imposed on the Arab nation. He stressed that among the accomplishments realized by the summit was that enemies of the Arab nation would think thousands of times before commiting any aggressive act especially by Zionist circles and their allies.

Says No ACC Summit

JN2307060390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has announced that he is in continuous touch with the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait. He reiterated the Republic of Yemen's concern over Arab unity and solidarity, and its keen interest in resolving differences among brothers through fraternal understanding and peaceful methods so that our Arab nation's efforts and resources will not be wasted.

In a statement to SABA' [Yemeni Press Agency], the chairman of the Presidential Council said that the Republic of Yemen will spare no efforts to remove any differences between two neighborly and sisterly countries. He expressed confidence that the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait will be able to overcome any difference.

The brother chairman described as baseless press reports on contacts among Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders to set a date and venue for an emergency ACC summit in the coming days to discuss the recent developments.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council asserted that any differences among brothers will be resolved bilaterally through peaceful methods.

Soviet Minister Leaves Following Oil Talks

JN2007134790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Filimonov, Soviet minister of petroleum and gas industry, left Sanaa this morning after a visit to our country which lasted several days. During the visit he met with Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. During the two meetings, discussion centered on bilateral cooperation in the field of oil.

The Soviet official also held talks with officials in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources dealing with bilateral relations in the field of oil and gas, especially regarding the development of oil fields in Shabwah governorate.

The Soviet and Yemeni sides agreed to continue their dialogue to develop oil-related ties between the two countries.

The Soviet minister was seen off by Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; several officials at the ministry; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Helicopter Pilot Lands, Asks for Asylum

LD2007181790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] A Ministry of Defense and Aviation spokesman has made the following statement to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY]:

At about 0600 today, Saudi Armed Forces warning elements discovered an air target flying very low over the Arab Gulf's international waters, heading for our territorial waters. The target soon sent out a help and a peace sign, requesting at the same time permission to make a forced landing at the nearest airport to our eastern coast: a matter that made the concerned sides respond to his request. The source went on to say: The target was an Iranian helicopter piloted by an Iranian major, who was accompanied by his family consisting of his wife, three children, and his wife's sister. He expressed his desire for political asylum in the Kingdom.

Editorial Criticizes Iranian Oil, Foreign Policy

JN2007170290 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Tehran's Rulers Are Tampering With Iran's Resources"]

[Text] When it allows itself to venture into selling Iranian oil at cheap prices to cover the deficit in its deteriorating economy and use oil revenues to finance terrorist movements, increase the mullahs' allocations, and accumulate wealth in the pockets of state authorities, the Tehran regime is in fact confirming its betrayal of the Iranian people. By so doing, the Tehran regime is squandering the Iranian people's natural resources and abusing these resources to commit further encroachments and provocations targeting Islamic states.

The Tehran rulers have gone as far as to sell oil before it is extracted, thus proving that they have gone overboard in their efforts to squander the resources of the Iranian peoples and destroy their national economy, not to mention the huge acts of embezzlement committed by officials and decisionmakers within the Iranian administration.

While pursuing an aimless oil policy, Iran is not taking into account future prospects, which are no longer predictable as regards the fate of the Tehran rulers. The financing of their henchmen in the ongoing war in southern Lebanon has largely contributed to the growing deficit in the Iranian economy. Moreover, by extending financial support to its allies in southern Lebanon, Iran is rendering a free service to Israel, which persistently seeks to weaken southern Lebanon to consecrate its dominance there.

The Tehran rulers, who have been basking in their pursuit of terror and sedition, are actually pursuing a self-destructive course. Their abnormal practices are well known to everyone these days. Now that the Iranian people have become more aware of the dangers posed by the Tehran rulers' policies, the opposition movement has begun to grow inside Iran. Furthermore, this movement is gaining further ground within the ranks of Iranians inside and outside Iran. This has made those involved in opposition activities targets of arrest campaigns, pursuit operations, and physical liquidation.

What preoccupies the minds of Tehran rulers right now is remaining in power and engaging in acts of illegal profiteering at the expense of Iran's future, security, and prosperity. Personal interests and power struggles have caused a permanent deterioration in all walks of life in Iran. This has created an unprecedented decay in Iran. What remains to be said is that this is the inevitable outcome of the jumbled policies and terrorist practices pursued both inside and outside Iran by the Tehran rulers.

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh 20 Jul

Welcomed by Sa'ud Al-Faysal

LD2007150590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] His Excellency Qian Qichen, PRC Foreign Minister, arrived in Riyadh today before noon. He was welcomed upon arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; 'Ismail al-Shura, assistant undersecretary at the foreign ministry for political affairs; Ambassador Husayn al-Shawwaf, director of Prince al-Faysal's office; Tawfiq Khalid Alimdar, the kingdom's trade representative in Beijing; ambassador Ahmad Mu'minah, director of the Asian Department [at the Foreign Ministry]; Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nuwwaysir, director of protocol; (Bigan Sun), PRC trade representative in Riyadh, and a number of officials.

Meets With Al-Faysal, Officials

LD2007185190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, foreign minister, met this evening at the Foreign Ministry in Riyadh His Excellency the foreign minister of the PRC, Qian Qichen. The meeting was attended by the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Political Affairs Isma'il al-Shuri; Ambassador Hasan al-Shawwaf, director of the office of His Excellency the foreign minister; Ambassador Ahmad Mu'minah, director of the Saudi commercial bureau in China; and the delegation accompanying His Excellency the guest minister.

Diplomatic Relations Established

LD2107220990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2138 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jul (SPA)—The governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China have decided to establish diplomatic relations.

This announcement came in a joint press release issued today, the text of which is as follows:

The Governments of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level as of 21 July 1990.

The Government of the People's Republic of China supports the policy pursued by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that aims at realizing security, stability, and its national interests.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the legitimate and sole representative of all Chinese people.

The two governments have agreed to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect of the state's sovereignty, the unity of the land, nonaggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, mutual interests, and peaceful coexistence.

Foreign Ministers Praise Ties

LD2107222990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2151 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jul (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, described the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China as: A significant step that will benefit the interests of the two countries and the interests of our Arab and Islamic nation.

In a statement following the signing of the agreement on establishing diplomatic relations in the company of PRC Foreign Minister Qichen Qian this evening at the foreign ministry in Riyadh, he expressed his satisfaction over the establishment of relations.

The foreign minister added: This is a significant step as far as we are concerned because China enjoys an internationally notable position. It has its reputation and a glorious history. God willing, this step will reap a positive outcome.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud went on to say: We, under the guidance of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and the Chinese leaders, can say that we had already developed excellent relations prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations. Therefore, the diplomatic relations will represent an even stronger impetus.

For his part, the PRC foreign minister stressed that "the establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and the Kingdom shows the achievement of a joint desire between the two countries and the two peoples".

In a similar statement following the signing of the agreement, he said "this is considered a big event in the history of bilateral relations between our two countries and proof that relations betwen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PRC have entered a new developing phase which serves not only the interests of our two peoples, but also serves the maintenance of peace, stability, and development in the whole region of our two countries. It also serves the interests of peace, stability, and development in the world".

The PRC foreign minster indicated "that this important event in relations between the two countries will have broad horizons in the future".

Received by King

LD2207173990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 JUl 90

[Text] Jeddah 22 JUl (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received today at his office in al-Salam Palace Qian Qichen, PRC foreign minister, who delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques a written message from Yang Shangkun, PRC president.

The audience was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, and Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid 'Alamdar, the kingdom's ambassador to the PRC, and Sun Biqan [name as received] ambassador of the PRC accredited to the kingdom.

Messages Exchanged

LD2207221590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah 22 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from the PRC president and the State Council premier. Here is the text of the message:

Honored Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On the occasion of the declaration by the PRC and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish diplomatic relations, we are overjoyed and happy to address on behalf of the government and people of China and personally in our own names warmest congratulations to you and through you to the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Kingdom is a very important event in the history of relations between our two countries as it does not only respond to the fundamental interests of the two peoples but also serves peace and stability in Asia and in fact the world over. Chinese-Saudi relations from now on have entered a new phase of total development. We are firmly convinced that, given the joint care by the Chinese and Saudi leaderships, the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will inevitably witness a comprehensive development in the fields of politics, economy and commerce. We wish the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia prosperity and progress and for its people happiness and wish the relations of friendship and cooperation between China and the kingdom continuous development.

Signed: Yang Shangkun
President of the People's Republic of China

Li Peng
Premier of the State Council

The custodian of the two holy mosques has sent a reply message. Here is the text:

His Excellency President Yang Shangkun; PRC president; His Excellency Li Peng; chairman of the PRC State Council—Beijing:

I have received your friendly message on the occasion of the declaration by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PRC regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

I would like to express to your excellency and to His Excellency Li Peng my thanks for your congratulations and for the sentiments of both your government and the friendly Chinese people toward this declaration.

In the name of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in my own name I reciprocate the congratulations and best wishes on occasion of this declaration and hope these relations will be a source of constructive understanding and beneficial cooperation in serving the two friendly peoples and their common desire for bolstering security, peace, and stability not only in Asia but in all continents of the world.

I am totally confident that our two countries are looking forward to a cooperation based on friendly relations and that officials in both countries will give total care to these relations. I seize this occasion to wish your excellency and his excellency Li Peng continued health and happiness and to your friendly people continued prosperity.

Please accept my greetings;
Signed: The custodian of the two holy mosques
Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud
King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Discusses Visit; Invites Fahd

LD2207221790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2055 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 July (SPA)—Qian Qichen, foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, has said that his visit to the kingdom was an official and friendly one, the aim of which was to establish diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PRC. In this context he referred to the joint statement released yesterday, Saturday, on the establishment of these relations.

The PRC minister expressed his appreciation at meeting the the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, earlier today, and pointed out that they had a very friendly talk. He said: During the meeting, I conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from the PRC president in which he invited the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to visit China at an apropriate time. The date for the visit will be set later through diplomatic channels.

The PRC official expressed his conviction that economic relations between the two countries will witness good developments in the future. He attributed that to the economic relations in existence before the establishment of diplomatic relations. He said: It is certain that after the establishment of these relations economic cooperation and trade relations between the two countries will witness comprehensive development. He pointed out that China and the kingdom belong to the developing countries, and that the two countries are increasingly focusing on building their national economies and are facing the common task of achieving growth in their economies.

He stressed that both the kingdom and China have their special idiosyncrasies, explaining once more that the relations of economic cooperation between the two countries will witness wide prospects.

Replying to a question, the PRC foreign minister stressed his country's interest in the Palestinian problem and in peace in the region and said: "Despite the fact that the international situation has witnessed a relaxation, the situation in the Middle East is on a course of tension," stressing that the influx of Soviet and East European Jews to occupied Palestinian territories is one of the causes of tension. He also stressed that among the other reasons are the formation of an Israeli government which is intransigent in its attitude, in addition to the differences within it.

The PRC minister went on to say: We believe that the key to resolving the problem lies in respecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

On the other hand, the PRC foreign minister told the news conference that his country supports the peaceful efforts of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee entrusted with finding a political solution to the Lebanese crisis. He said: The Tripartite Committee has exerted great efforts to solve the problem of Lebanon and we believe the Arab solution to this problem is the most useful solution.

Replying to a question on the conditions of Muslims in the PRC, the Chinese minister explained that some 16 million Muslims are currently living in China, stressing that they are enjoying religious freedom and the right to practice their religious rites. He added: We as a Chinese Government endorse a policy of protecting the rights and freedoms of Chinese Muslims. He announced that currently there are more than 20,000 mosques in China where Muslims can perform religious rites. He said: Despite the far distance separating the Kingdom from China, a great number of Muslims come every year to perform the hajj ordinance.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, for the care and facilities received by Chinese pilgrims.

The PRC foreign minister expressed his country's appreciation and support of international cooperation, noting that China supports economic groups set up in one region. However, she is not for the transformation of these organizations into enclosed organizations because this, he said, will constitute an obstacle to large scale economic exchange.

He pointed out that in Asia there are regional organizations such as ASEAN, but he added: If we look at this region we do not find so far an extensive economic organization. In reply to a question the Chinese minister stressed that the Muslim Chinese have their own organizations. Regarding China's attitude vis-a-vis the changes that have taken place in some socialist states and the fact that their economy has been changed to a free economy and they have abandoned the socialist economic principles, the foreign minister of the People's

Republic of China said: It is the right of every government to make the decisions which it deems fit and we respect the right of any people to make the decisions it deems appropriate. The Chinese official was asked if there was an intent to hold a Chinese fair in Jeddah along the lines of the fair which was held last year in Riyadh. He replied: Yes, and an agreement has been reached on this, but the date is still being considered. He thinks it is likely the fair will be held in November. When asked whether there is a tendency to establish diplomatic relations between (?this country and South Korea) the Chinese foreign minister ruled out the establishment of such relations in (?the near future). He pointed out that his country is of the opinion that the weapons it exports to other countries are used in self-defense and that such weapons are a means for peace and security. He said: As for Iran, there are no deals between the two countries. He pointed out that there are some Chinese weapons being sold on the international markets without the knowledge of the Chinese Government and the latter does not export them. At the end of his news conference he stressed that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has received an invitation from the Chinese president to visit China. He said: I have invited His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, to visit Beijing, but we have not agreed on a specific date for the visit.

Ends Visit To Kingdom

LD2207193590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Qian Qichen, has left Jeddah this evening following a several-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Chinese Reportage on Visit

WA2307133090

For Chinese reportage on the visit to Saudi Arabia by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, including the establishment of diplomatic relations, see the 23 July and subsequent issues of the International Affairs, Near East & South Asia section of the China DAILY REPORT.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Ministry Memo Reacts To Iraqi Letter

JN2007180890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jul (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Ministry addressed a memorandum to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today to be circulated among the member states. The memorandum includes the UAE's viewpoint in response to the Iraqi Government memorandum to the Arab League secretary general. The following is the text of the memorandum:

Your Excellency Arab League Secretary General esteemed brother Chedli Klibi. Greetings. We have received with extreme regret the Iraqi Government memorandum addressed to your excellency, dated 15 July 1990, which was circulated to the sisterly Arab League member states, and which contained allegations and accusations against the UAE policy and its firm and open pan-Arab stands regarding joint Arab action, the Arab nation's fateful issues, and the oil policy within the framework of OPEC.

Your Excellency the Secretary General, the allegations contained in the Iraqi memorandum and the creation of doubts regarding UAE oil policy are void of any truth and are rejected, especially since defending the world oil market is the collective responsibility of the oil-producing countries inside and outside OPEC, and because UAE positions within the framework of OPEC are known and honorable. The UAE has once again proved its concern about the stability of the oil market and the unity of OPEC by reducing its production to a level that is less than its quota.

UAE support for and aid to the fraternal states are based on firm principles and strong faith in performing the pan-Arab duty. This is known to all and is indisputable.

Your Excellency the Secretary General, based on the above, the UAE affirms that escalating crises, provoking accusations, and resorting to emotionalism in Arab relations and in stands taken by the brothers will reflect negatively on the Arab march and on joint Arab action, and will only benefit the Arab nation's enemies at a time when this nation is facing many challenges and dangers that require everyone to work for the realization of an effective Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, and for mobilizing resources and efforts to confront the fateful threats to the Arab nation.

The UAE is of the opinion that, wherever they exist, Arab problems and differences must be solved in a spirit of brotherhood, amity, wisdom, foresight, and mutual respect.

We request that Your Excellency distribute this memo among the sisterly states, the members of the Arab League. From God we seek success.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives From Qatar on Visit

Delivers Message to Al Thani

JN1907104990 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of sisterly Kuwait, arrived in the country this afternoon from Doha on a short visit within his current tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. He was received at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; a number of officials; and Muhammad Sa'ud Ibn-al-Mi', Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Earlier today, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, received a written message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, on latest Arab developments and bilateral ties. The message was handed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when he was received by the Qatari heir apparent in Doha this morning.

Delivers Message to President

JN1907142990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Abu Dhabi for Oman this afternoon after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad delivered a letter to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, on the current developments in the region and issues that concern the two countries.

Editorial Praises UAE Oil Policy, Pan-Arabism

JN2207164690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] was first among the states to link oil policy with pan-Arab welfare. Immediately after the glorious October war erupted in 1973, the UAE deployed the oil weapon in the battle.

The UAE was also one of the charter members of OPEC, and it made every effort to protect that organization and preserve its unity. Moreover, the UAE has always deferred to the collective interest over its national economy, although defending the world oil market is a collective responsibility of the oil-producing countries inside and outside the OPEC. UAE positions within OPEC are well known and honorable. By offering successive sacrifices the UAE has always proved its eagerness to stabilize the oil market and maintain the OPEC's unity. It therefore reduced its oil production to a level below its quota and remained patient for a long time despite that unfair reality, in order to prevent damage to OPEC unity.

Despite all its sacrifices, the UAE's support and aid to the fraternal and friendly states has not stopped. It has shared what it has with others, this being one of its principles, and because it needs no encouragement to carry out its pan-Arab responsibility.

In light of its sense of pan-Arabism, which constitutes a cornerstone in the philosophy of its national and pan-Arab action, the UAE is fully aware that differences among the Arab brothers, if there are any, can be overcome through patience and wisdom, because the escalation of crises will benefit no one, but will further fragment and tear apart the Arabs at a time when the Arab march requires joint action to mobilize energy, unify ranks and resources, and enable the Arab nation to confront the major challenges to its culture, its present, and its future.

Arabs Urged To Foster 'Spirit of Brotherhood'

JN2207193190 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Enemies Are Lying in Wait"]

[Text] It is natural for differences among brothers to surface from time to time. No one can deny the existence of these differences, but ignoring them may lead to very serious consequences.

The danger may reach the point of a pan-Arab disaster if these differences are exacerbated and magnified.

This is what the United Arab Emirates [UAE] memorandum to the Arab League Secretary general meant when it referred to such an escalation: It will reflect negatively on the Arab march at a time when this nation is facing many challenges and dangers that require everyone to work for the realization of an effective Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, and for mobilizing resources and efforts to confront the fateful threats to the Arab nation.

Whether the subject of differences is related to interests or interpretations, it should remain confined to its original place, so that it does not become worse.

Any differences between the brothers, no matter how serious, will not reach the level of the conflict of survival which the whole Arab nation is undergoing—under very difficult circumstances. At the same time, the Arab nation is being exposed to a fierce onslaught that threatens its future and fate. The onslaught is directed against us all, and its daggers are already in our body, and are being resharpened to tear up the one Arab body.

Hence, we are confident that the UAE's appeal to its brothers to solve the Arab problems and differences in a spirit of brotherhood, wisdom, foresight, and mutual respect will be received sympathetically. Everyone remembers our enemies' assertion: We do not create opportunities, but know how to exploit them.

Kuwait's Resort to Security Council Criticized

JN2207112290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that what is facing Iraq now is an imperialist-Zionist conspiracy. The conspiracy's roles, the paper adds, have been carefully distributed, giving the most serious ones to the United States' well-known friends, whom Washington pledged to protect.

In today's editorial, the paper affirms that the Kuwaiti Government's stand at this stage seeks to inflict more harm on the Arab economy; diminish Arab power; and hamper the nation's economic, development, scientific, and defense programs.

AL-'IRAQ refutes the Kuwaiti rulers' claims about their concern for pan-Arab objectives and their bragging about their pan-Arab stands and wonders if serving U.S. policy and imperialist-Zionist plans to subjugate and humiliate the Arabs and keep them under foreign influence and control is one of the pan-Arab objectives sought by the Kuwaiti Government. [passage omitted]

The paper reviews the chain of conspiracies carried out by the Kuwaiti rulers against Iraq—mainly cutting off aid to Iraq, stealing its resources, and encroaching on its territory—and says all these conspiracies constitute a long record of anti-Arab stands and close association with imperialist-Zionist policies, suspicious roles, and vacillating stands which have harmed the Arab cause.

AL-'IRAQ sheds light on the aims behind the Kuwaiti rulers' attempt to internationalize the issue with Iraq, saying their resort to the international community, in a deliberate attempt to destroy the Arab League, seeks to give an opportunity to imperialist and Zionist circles which protect their interests, draw up their anti-Arab policies, and create their conspiracies in accordance with the requirements of this stage of the attempt to dispatch their forces to the region.

The paper refers in this respect to the statement made by the Zionist war minister Moshe Arens during his visit to Washington in which he openly called "for discussing Iraqi threats to Kuwait."

AL-'IRAQ warns the Kuwaiti rulers of the dangers of their continued involvement in the plotting against the Arab nation and Iraq's vital interests. It reaffirms President Saddam Husayn's statement that, "If words fail to provide protection, effective action must be taken to restore matters to their normal course and to restore the usurped rights to their owners".

The paper warns: In defending its national rights and the rights of its Arab nation, Iraq cannot be blamed.

Kuwaiti Message to Security Council Condemned

JN2107132390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—An official spokesman has stated the following:

The Kuwaiti Government has sent a message to the Security Council and the UN secretary general on the recent developments. This means that the Kuwaiti Government has abandoned the Arab option and the Arab League, contrary to what they claimed in their memorandum to the Arab League.

As their envoys roam the Arab capitals to explain their nonsensical position as reflected in their recent memorandum, the Kuwaiti rulers are on the road to realizing their principal goal of inviting foreign forces to interfere in the region, as they have done previously. This behavior confirms the conclusion stated in leader President Saddam Husayn's speech and the letter sent by the foreign minister to the Arab League secretary general on 15 July 1990 stating that the Kuwaiti rulers are implementing an imperialist plan. This behavior deserves every denunciation by the Arab nation and the Kuwaiti Arab people.

Evidence Shows 'Conspiratorial Course' of Sabah

JN2307084590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that all major facts clearly confirm that the rulers of Kuwait are part of the conspiracy against Iraq and that they act and move in coordination and in harmony with the American-Zionist scheme. In the fourth part of a serialized editorial under the headline "This Is Not How Iraq Is Rewarded," the Iraqi newspaper adds: Each day additional, clear evidence and facts disclose the conspiratorial course of the Kuwaiti rulers and expose their role in implementing the part assigned to them in the American-Zionist scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation. Topping this evidence are the suspicious American and Zionist statements and moves these days and the strange speed with which the American officials expressed their strong support of their friends in the region as individuals and groups. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH says: It is our pan-Arab duty to inform the fraternal Kuwaiti people about the conspirator who devotes himself to carrying out an American-Zionist scheme and to tell them who is in the right because we are part of our people in Kuwait and we all are part of the Arab nation. We disclosed these facts and this information after we failed to curb the plotters from continuing their deviant conspiratorial course and after the good people also failed to curb Sabah al-Ahmad [Kuwaiti foreign minister] and his ilk. We disclosed the facts after we were forced to do so and after it became a national and pan-Arab necessity to disclose them to the good people, who were surprised to learn about them. They have the right to be surprised when we did our utmost and tried persistently to straighten out the corrupted person and bring him to the right path, but with no result.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Since we are disclosing facts, we should reveal the fact that before this conspiracy Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the executor of American policy in Kuwait, planned to weaken the position of Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah and to undermine his cabinet so that he could become the prime minister. And then Sabah al-Ahmad would have been able to play a larger and more effective role in the conspiracy against Iraq, a conspiracy that coincided with the brutal political and media campaign as well as with the American and Zionist threats to launch a new aggression on Iraq.

The newspaper says: Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir hinted in one way or another that the file of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border is not with the government of Sa'd al-'Abdallah but with him and Amir Shaykh Jabir. When Shaykh Sabah received the border file, no decision was made; he made the others believe that there was a problem preventing a decision on this issue and other pending issues between Kuwait and Iraq. However, Sabah al-Ahmad's agentry was exposed when he hurried to abandon the Arab option and the pan-Arab framework and sent his memorandum to international circles to remove the issue from the Arab League and maintain the presence of the foreign fleets, particularly his friends' fleet, in the Gulf under a very weak pretext. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Expresses 'Astonishment' at Egyptian Press

JN2107131790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Commenting on the wrong interpretations published in some Egyptian newspapers regarding what Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said in his speech at the recent Arab League Council meeting, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated the following:

I followed with astonishment the wrong interpretations some Egyptian newspapers have published of my speech at the recent Arab League Council meeting. At any rate, it is in the nature of the solid, fraternal relations between Iraq and Egypt and between President Saddam Husayn and his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that there be a mechanism that would prevent any wrong circumstantial interpretations or explanations. Every issue between the two countries is set in a framework of good intentions.

The minister affirmed: A major portion of my speech at the Tunis meeting was affected by the contents of the message I handed on the following day to the Arab League secretary general on the harm and aggression inflicted on Iraq by the Kuwaiti Government. In my speech I did not mean Egypt, as was misinterpreted by some Egyptian newspapers.

Nevertheless, I greatly regretted the absence of most foreign ministers—the brothers and colleagues—from the meeting. My disappointment at them was the disappointment at brothers and colleagues because the threats that the PLO is being subjected to actually require reviewing the stand at the level of ministers, especially since the meeting was called for more than two weeks before.

In any event, in cases like these the absence of this or that colleague can be understood if the reasons are known.

Paper Claims Kuwait Seeks Foreign Intervention

JN2207093090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges the Arab nation to confront the Kuwaiti rulers' role in implementing an imperialist scheme that is hostile to the nation in more ways than one.

The paper states in its editorial today that the Kuwaiti rulers' role in implementing the imperialist scheme has begun to take shape and that opposing this role is a pan-Arab task as much as it is a national task for the Kuwaiti Arab people.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Kuwaiti Government has abandoned the Arab option in a dubious way, rejected the Arab League, and paved the way for inviting foreign troops to intervene in the region, just as it did when it provided the cover and justifications for the entry of foreign fleets into Gulf waters. By doing so, the Kuwaiti Government is turning its back on the Arab family before the ink on its memo to the Arab League has dried and also before the return of its envoys from Arab states. The paper adds: From the outset, Iraq has linked the Kuwaiti Government's oil policy with U.S. policy.

The paper says that the Kuwaiti rulers contributed, before taking this step, to the hostile scheme in more ways than one at a time when the traditional enemies of the Arab nation faced difficult options after having been robbed of the ability to carry out blitzkriegs and cheap aggressions, thanks to Iraq's power, strength, and deterrent weapons. By flooding the oil market, the Kuwaiti rulers have sought to drain Iraq's financial resources in order to render Iraq's steadfastness, resurgence, and the performance of its pan-Arab tasks difficult, the paper adds.

The paper goes on to say: To keep the door open for foreigners, the Kuwaiti rulers have evaded any serious dialogue to settle outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait and have ignored Iraq's just and legitimate demands to stop their theft of the oil of al-Rumaylah and other Iraqi areas.

The paper says that the Kuwaiti rulers have taken it upon themselves to create problems and encroach on Iraq's resources, lands, and rights in order to facilitate the sending of foreign forces that seek to intervene in the region.

AL-THAWRAH comments: For this purpose, the Kuwaiti rulers have kept the U.S. flag on their tankers to provide the excuse for elements of the U.S. Navy to remain in the Gulf waters despite the cessation of hostilities. That is also why they established a direct sea link with Iran, while deciding not to open an air corridor with Iraq. This also coincides with their rejection of Iraqi initiatives in order to keep the Basra port unoperational.

The paper refers to the Kuwaiti memo accusing Iraq of encroachments as a Kuwaiti attempt to create a crisis and provide the cover for intervention, particularly in the wake of the U.S. statement about its readiness to provide strong protection to the friends of the United States—a statement that smacks of a desire to undertake a despicable intervention.

The paper stresses that what is taking place is the result of a plan drawn up beforehand between Washington and the Kuwaiti rulers. The paper adds: According to this scenario, these rulers were asked to implement a scheme to steal Arab oil at the cheapest price. This is how the enemies are seeking to hurt Iraq and the Arab nation. Treacherous and covetous arrows are being aimed at Iraq because it is the Arabs' stronghold and their deterrence umbrella which ended once and for all the arrogance of power that Israel has been using, with Washington's backing, over the past 40 years.

The paper refers to the dangers posed by the Kuwaiti rulers' oil policies and warns of the consequences of these policies. The paper links these policies to the U.S. scheme to impose it unilateral hegemony over the oil market, oil producers, and oil consumers.

AL-THAWRAH says that Iraq has always viewed pan-Arab security from a comprehensive angle that does not separate political aspects from economic and military issues. The paper adds: And here the Kuwaiti rulers are exposing the pan-Arab security as a whole to new and grave dangers. They have agreed to play the role of a small tool providing the foreigner with justifications and pretexts and to serve as the required bridgehead for intervention.

The paper says: This is being done at a time when imperialist-Zionist threats to Iraq are continuing. And here the dimensions of the conspiracy against the Arab nation through targeting Iraq become clearer in more ways than one.

AL-THAWRAH writes that when Iraq chose to put the facts before the Arab nation, to reveal the dangers, and to expose the Kuwaiti rulers' conspiracy, it addressed its grievances to the Arab League and the Arab masses to explain its views, on account of its pan-Arab perspective and commitments. By doing so, Iraq sought to thwart the efforts of those who have taken it upon themselves to secure the entry of foreigners into the region.

The paper refers to the coffers and balances of the Kuwaiti rulers—coffers that include funds stolen from the wealth of their people, the wealth of the nation, and that of Iraq. The paper adds: As for the rights of the nation, including those of the Kuwaiti people, they are not taken into account. Hence, it is only natural that the nation will confront the conspirators and transgressors who tamper with Arab wealth and sovereignty.

The paper reaffirms that our nation has chosen to cooperate with Iraq and to stick to its rights, dignity, and role. The paper adds: Our nation will not allow the deviationists to play their roles in service of foreigners who covet our sovereignty and wealth. Furthermore, the nation is stronger than all enemies. Certainly, it is stronger than the rulers who serve the interests of others.

Paper Calls 'Referendum' on Saddam 'Pledge'

JN2207110590 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Hamzah Mustafa article: "The Iraqis and Their Next Stage"]

[Text] The leadership finalized the new Iraqi draft constitution a few days ago. This was achieved through expanded and intensified meetings and discussions. The leadership referred the draft constitution to the National Assembly for discussion. It will also be discussed by various bodies and at numerous levels. This means that the entire people will discuss the articles of the new constitution, which will approve a multiparty system and the freedom of the press according to laws and within certain frameworks that have also been the subject of lengthy discussions by competent committees. Everything, however, is dependent on the constitution. There is talk now about the features of the next stage in Iraq. Many departments, sides, institutions, and bodies are awaiting what will happen in Iraq. Western media are escalating their full-blown, unjust campaign against Iraq and its symbol and leader Saddam Husayn. At a very critical stage in which Iraq was preparing to adopt the constitution, which provides for a referendum on the post of the president of the Republic, President Saddam Husayn received Western journalists who came with questions they believed to be "embarrassing" for a man whose post will be subject to referendum. The answer they received, however, was confident, assuring, pithy, and expressive.

Current talk ultimately centers on the next stage and the great changes it will witness. Many media organs and institutions have begun to draw attention to what will happen in Iraq, which is on the threshold of a new stage. What I would like to say, as an Iraqi citizen, is that this talk is not spontaneous but is part of the suspicious scheme whose aims and motives we all know.

The question is: What will happen in Iraq? Will it be a surprise that calls for attention and anticipation? For all those people we put forward the following simple facts:

1. What will happen in Iraq tomorrow; that is, when the constitution is put to a referendum to be approved, is not accidental. In fact, it is an integral part of a giant march

that is now 22 years old. I am referring to the march of the 17-30 July great Revolution, which was planned and carried out by leader Saddam Husayn, son of the Arab Socialist Ba'th and upholder of the Arab nation's objectives and its rosy future, in spite of the will of evildoers and malicious people.

2. Thanks to the 17-30 1968 July Revolution, a new Iraq was born. The rate of illiteracy in this Iraq was over 70 percent. Its total budget was 300 million dinars. Nobody at the time ever thought of industry, agriculture, culture, or services. People always asked: Can our country manufacture a sewing needle? Now the picture has become clear; it needs no comment. If we wanted to document what we are saying with figures, it would take volumes. All this has taken place in the space of 22 years. What a giant revolution this is, which managed during this short period to answer the question about manufacturing a sewing needle with the assuredness of advanced scientific achievement! The list is long. It is sufficient to point to the al-'Abid rocket system that has carried Iraq into the space age despite all the conspiracies, intrigues, spite, and malice.

3. The leader of the revolution is the son of our people. He has never said that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was not groomed for this post by establishments, companies, and circles of influence. He was graduated from the institution of struggle. He was the one who mounted a tank on 17 July, risking his blood, and led the ranks of the revolutionaries to announce the birth of a new Iraq. This leader planned and supervised all stages of Iraqi construction in terms of education, science, economy, culture, and democracy. He is the leader who rejected the favors of the ruler, who announced that half of himself is in the opposition, and who completed the requirements of the transitional period in order to lead Iraq to lasting stability. He is the leader who announced that the office of the president must be subjected to a referendum.

4. What I will say now will disturb the Western media and all those with sick minds in the suspect circles and hired propaganda machines. The Iraqis will not participate in a referendum on Saddam Husayn because to them Saddam is not a president but a symbol of their pride and dignity and a title of their glory and self-respect. Perhaps everybody is aware that the Iraqis gave an all-out pledge of allegiance [bay'ah] to Saddam Husayn at the most critical moment in Iraqi history.

Tomorrow, when the Iraqis participate in a referendum, as the provisions of their constitution stipulate, it will not be because they doubt their own intentions but because they are a civilized people with a civilized, modern leader. The Iraqi people have enough experience and foresight to qualify them to express their love and allegiance to their leader and symbol, Saddam Husayn, in accordance with the constitution.

Therefore, the event will be a new pledge of allegiance to Saddam Husayn, a pledge of conscience and duty. Saddam Husayn is the man who extricated Iraq from the abyss of backwardness and raised it to the highest stages of scientific and social progress. He is the man during whose rule the Arabs realized their greatest victory in modern times. He is the one who is leading the phase of peace toward its happy climax. Do not the conscience and duty of the Iraqis call upon them to raise a single, roaring voice: Yes, yes to Saddam Husayn?

5. Implementing the constitution, the multiparty system, and the freedom of the press is not a completely new or obscure phase, contrary to what is being thought about it and regardless of what is said on the preparations for it. What will happen will be a process of embodying and defining the phase of construction and progress. It is an expression of maturity in playing the humanitarian and cultural role in a way that will bring everybody's responsibility in direct contact with the nature of his duties in a way that will realize a balance between rights and duties.

King Fahd's Envoy Delivers Message to Saddam

JN2107104890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and personal envoy to his excellency from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques on relations between the two sisterly countries and the developments in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Levi Seeks Guarantees From U.S. on Peace Process

Pledge Against Palestinian State

TA2107172490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will confer with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington on 9 August. Our political correspondent reports that during his visit, Minister Levi will try to make good on some understandings with the U.S. Administration that will guarantee the continuation of the peace process. As part of that effort, he will ask the United States to provide an explicit pledge that it would object to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Further on Pledges Sought

TA2207082390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jul 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Washington correspondent Ran Dagoni]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will bring to Washington in early August a draft for a memorandum of understanding aimed at removing Israeli concerns in the event there is a meeting with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

The document includes the renewal of political coordination and strategic cooperation with the United States; a U.S. commitment to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state and refrain from exerting pressure on Israel to hold contacts with the PLO; and a U.S. agreement to remove East Jerusalem from autonomy talks.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 22 July in a similar report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky on pages 1 and 8 adds: "Senior Israeli officials say that the government's aim for the Baker-Levi meeting is to achieve an iron-clad U.S. guarantee on the following three items: the U.S. will not force Israel to meet with the PLO, an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will only deal with elections for an interim settlement, and the U.S. commits itself to opposing a Palestinian state." It said Foreign Minister Levi told the newspaper that "the government has recently received U.S. written commitments to the above, but said it needs to be 'hermetically sealed.' These senior Israeli officials say if a three-fold guarantee is indeed achieved, the differences on the composition of the Palestinian delegation will be secondary, and thus resolvable with goodwill on both sides."]

The U.S. Administration, on the other hand, expects the foreign minister to prove the integrity of Israel's intentions to advance the peace initiative. A U.S. source told MA'ARIV that there is no link between Levi's visit and the U.S. decision to cancel the round of talks on defense aid. Washington also claims the decision is only a 'postponement' and not a cancellation. Israeli sources have reservations about this explanation, especially in view of the suddenness of the decision.

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney promised Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who is visiting Washington, that the U.S. continues to support the Arrow missile project. Arens also raised the proposal to revive the Lavi project by manufacturing it in the United States and selling it to the U.S. Army. His U.S. counterpart did not respond to the proposal.

Shamir Notes 'Absence of Tension' With U.S.

TA2207162590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the Cabinet is functioning well, exhibiting unanimity, and managing to disappoint all its critics and other prophets of doom. He claimed that since the formation of the cabinet about six weeks ago, it is quieter in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir was talking to members of Moshav Nordiyya.

Regarding relations with the United States, he said that the signs we have been receiving from that country indicate the absence of tension in bilateral ties. The reception given to the defense minister at the Pentagon and the invitation extended to the foreign minister to visit Washington support his contention. According to the prime minister, the disagreement with the United States over political issues is not new, but we must meanwhile maintain good relations with it and make sure that the aid continues.

Bush Letter to Jewish Leaders in U.S. Viewed

TA2307083290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jul 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] In talks to be held during Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Washington, the administration heads will point out to Israel that the United States' Middle East peace policy is based on the return of territories in exchange for peace, on the termination of the occupation through a process of negotiations, and on the implementation of the Palestinians' legitimate political rights. This is evident in a 12 July letter sent by President Bush to several leaders of U.S. Jewish organizations in the wake of his decision to discontinue the dialogue with the PLO.

Yesterday the prime minister's bureau confirmed having been informed of the letter's content, stressing that the topics in the letter are part of the issues that are on the agenda between the two countries. A senior element said that Israel's stance is clear and that its new government continues to adhere to the Camp David accords and to Israel's initiative, which is based on these accords. [passage omitted]

Political elements in Jerusalem regard the dispatch of President Bush's letter to Jewish organizations as a message to the Shamir government that the United States will not drop its demand for territorial concessions by Israel. At the same time, the administration is willing to provide guarantees for Israel's security and to attempt to promote the process of recognition of Israel by neighboring Arab countries.

U.S. Warned on Intruding in Iraq-Kuwait Dispute

TA2007143090 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "America...Pokes Its Nose!"]

[Text] The United States is now trying to exploit the current crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, to its own benefit of course, by issuing hints and threats against Iraq and by "remaining strongly committed to supporting the defense of its friends in the Gulf," as stated by U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher two days ago!

The current U.S. "attempt," therefore, looks like support for one or more Arab states against another. The reality, however, is totally different. The U.S. Administration only supports its oil interests in the region. It cares only for the flow of Arab oil, at low prices, to the United States, which it turns into huge profits and enormous wealth, stolen principally from all the Arab nations.

The problem, though, is the collusion of some Arab states within the framework of the continuing U.S. conspiracy. This provides Washington with the opportunity to "tinker" in the region and take on the role of supporting this party against the other, while the only thing that concerns it is the party that "guards" the oil flowing into its factories, companies, and large monopolies.

Therefore, before we are all deceived again by this U.S. "game," we should confront the inter-Arab problem through Arab channels within the framework of the Arab states' minimal joint solidarity at this difficult juncture, which is marked by acceleration of events and politico-economic changes.

The current Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute is a pure Arab dispute. Its territorial problem, at least, is not new and will only be resolved through an Arab path. Therefore, the United States has no sanction, under any slogan or pretext, to poke its nose into this dispute. If it persists in its new conspiracy, it will increase the imminent dangers and will find that all the Arab nations, without exception, are against its interference in their issues, rights, and wealth.

Americans Arrested for Aiding Israeli Emigration

JN2207152590 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Israeli occupation authorities are currently questioning five Jewish Americans accused of organizing the migration of Jews from Israel to the United States and certain West European countries.

Well-informed Palestinian sources in the occupied territories said Israeli authorities last week arrested the five at a house in occupied Jerusalem as they were registering names of Israeli Jews desiring to emigrate to the United States or to some European countries. The sources added that the five have succeeded in arranging the exit of a number of Jews from Israel, including Soviet and Eastern European Jews.

Immigration From Ethiopia Said To Resume Soon

TA2007045890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] A renewal of the exodus of Jews from Ethiopia is expected in a few days. The Foreign Ministry spokesman told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that the reasons for the holdup are technical and that the Ethiopian Government's commitment remains valid. The spokesman said the Ethiopian and Israeli Governments have a family reunion agreement, and that the rate of Jewish emigration is fixed by the Ethiopian emigration authorities. The spokesman denied the report that Israel and Ethiopia agreed to hold up the exodus of Jews to prevent non-Jews from infiltrating into Israel. This report is baseless; Israel will not agree to stop the reunion of families process.

The Jewish community in Addis Ababa and the Israeli Embassy there say there is no truth to reports that the Ethiopian authorities decided to send the 14,000 Jews living in the capital back to villages.

Finnish Transit Point for USSR Jews Postponed

TA2207142890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] There is no chance that the transit point for Soviet Jews in Finland will be in operation soon. The maiden flight [from Finland to Israel], originally scheduled for the day after tomorrow, has also been cancelled. This is mainly for security reasons.

The cabinet today thanked Finland for its willingness to serve as a transit point, and talks on the issue will resume soon.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh nevertheless believes that the activation of the Finnish transit point is evidently going to be struck off the agenda.

Shamir Announces Budget Cuts To Aid Immigration

TA2207134290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A team headed by the prime minister decided on a cut of approximately 500 million shekels from the state budget. This was announced by Mr. Shamir during the cabinet session. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman adds that the team also includes Finance Minister Moda'i and Economics and Planning Minister Magen. This cut forms an inseparable part of the cabinet's decision to approve a supplementary budget of approximately 2.5 billion shekels for the absorption of immigration. Yet because of a dispute with the ministries whose budgets are slated to be slashed, the implementation of this decision has been deferred.

Peres Wins on Date of Labor Leadership Election

Rabin Hopes To Work With Peres

TA2207192690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Shim'on Peres has won the contest against Yitzhaq Rabin in the Labor Party Central Committee. In all three questions put to a vote, Peres' followers scored 54 percent, compared with the 46 percent attained by Rabin's camp. About 1,200 central committee members took part in the vote. The decision means that the race for the Labor Party's leadership will only take place before the next elections through primaries, with the participation of all the party members.

Shim'on Peres thanked his supporters, and called for the revitalization of the Labor Party. He also called on Rabin's followers to go along with the entire party as one. Peres said he hoped a young leadership would emerge in the Labor Party. He said he was not sure he would compete for the leadership in two years if he sees that there are young candidates capable of leading the party.

Yitzhaq Rabin said he has no intention of drawing personal conclusions from his failure. He said he hoped to be able to work with Shim'on Peres as head of the party. The Labor Party, Rabin said, must now work as an opposition party.

Two leading Labor Party members, Moshe Shahal and Ora Namir, have meanwhile announced that, now that the contest for the leadership has been postponed to a later date, they intend to start their race for the top.

Ramifications Gauged

TA2307110190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 13

[Article by Nahum Barne'a]

[Excerpts] The immediate outcome of Peres' victory in the Labor Party Central Committee is the invalidation of Rabin's status as the party's number two man and as the man who holds the right of veto over any important political move made on behalf of the party.

Answering a question on what Rabin's position will be after the race, Peres said that it will be similar to that of other senior party members. Peres explained: I was not the one to undo the truce. I did not plot against Rabin.

From a regime of mutual veto, the Labor Party is moving on to a regime of camps. The war of succession will be waged in the shadow of Peres' leadership. It will split the party into various camps, creating a situation similar to the one in the Shamir-led Likud. [passage omitted]

The Labor doves who were badly damaged are Yitzhaq Navon, Arye Eli'av, 'Uzi Bar'am, and others who jumped on the Rabin bandwagon at the last minute. The vacuum created by them will give rise to a new dovish leadership that will consolidate behind Peres. Most prominent among the new doves is Nisim Zvili, who was the Peres headquarters manager. Others, such as Hayim Ramon and Yosi Beilin, who have been speaking of seceding leftward in recent weeks, will probably be part of that camp.

Now Peres is talking about a new peace plan. The previous plan, which had been proposed by Rabin and supported by Shamir, was dumped into the wastebasket yesterday, all the while derided as "Camp David leftovers." The new plan will speak of immediate political and economic talks with a Palestinian delegation; of complete withdrawal from Gaza, or at least full autonomy for that region; and other issues. It is doubtful that Peres has worked out the plan in full detail, but he seems very determined to expunge the previous plan, which was named after Rabin. [passage omitted]

Arrow, Patriot Missile Systems Under Discussion

Arrow Test To Occur

TA2007132690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Air Force commander says that Iraq's self-confidence is growing, increasing the likelihood that it could attack its Persian Gulf neighbors. He pointed out that Jordan is likewise playing with fire with its military cooperation with Iraq.

Replying to a question on whether Israel would test the Arrow missile within two weeks, Major General Bin-Nun replied: This would be a safe assumption.

He was speaking at a news conference with foreign reporters in Tel Aviv.

Arens Says Patriot Sale Off

TA2107172190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that in light of the license the United States gave Israel to continue to develop the Arrow antimissile missile and its pledge to invest approximately $250 million in the second stage of the missile's development, the Patriot project has been struck off the agenda. The Patriot is a similar missile developed by the United States.

Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports that, after meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Richard Cheney, Arens told reporters that the Patriot cannot satisfy Israel's defense needs while the Arrow will offer a satisfactory response to the threats.

Major General Bin-Nun, the commander of the Air Force, said that he believes the Arrow could become operational within five years.

IAF Chief Sees Need for Both

TA2207112790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The first tests following the initial stage of development in the Arrow missile project are due to be held within a few days. The Arrow project is a missile defense system. Last Friday the defense minister stated that the U.S. Administration had promised to support the second phase of the Arrow's development at a cost of about $200 million, compared to the $158 million invested during the initial stage. Israel's commitment to purchase the Arrow system upon its completion in approximately five years had constituted one of the conditions for continued U.S. support since the project's inauguration.

Nevertheless, it has now been decided that Israel would instead pledge to integrate the project in the IDF's [Israel Defense Force] multiyear work plan. Purchasing orders are submitted within the framework of such a plan, and some of these orders are completed toward the plan's end. A multiyear plan is based on projected threats and current IDF exigencies, as opposed to future dangers. Therefore, the integration of the Arrow missile into the multiyear work plan means that Israel indeed intends to acquire the missile. The fact that Israel refused to sign the commitment, however, could mean that the defense establishment is unwilling to commit itself right now. In any case, sources in Israel Air Industries expressed satisfaction with the agreement and with the administration's support for the second stage of the project. The project, they said, would bring us significantly closer to an integrated system.

It was further learned that the decision not to procure the Patriot antiaircraft missile system was made on 19 July in the defense minister's office. The chief of staff, the chief of the Planning Branch, the Israel Air Force [IAF] commander, and other elements also attended the meeting and briefed the defense minister on the Patriot system's capabilities. Over the past two months experiments and tests have been conducted by experts, who claimed that the Patriot system is limited in its firing ranges, cannot furnish a response to the problems posed by ballistic missiles, and could never achieve the level exhibited by the Arrow.

Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the IAF commander, said during a meeting with military correspondents that it was necessary to integrate the two systems—the Patriot and the Arrow—in order to furnish an adequate response to the threat posed to Israel by Arab surface-to-surface missiles. During the same meeting, the IAF commander also said that Israel is examining the possibility of leasing the Patriot missiles.

No Plans To Revive Lavi

TA2207201390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Security sources said this evening that there are no plans whatsoever to revive the Lavi project. Speculation about the Lavi emerged after Defense Minister Moshe Arens proposed to the Americans that they consider choosing the Lavi as an assistance aircraft to ground forces. The Lavi did not feature in the meeting between Arens and Richard Cheney in Washington. Our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports from the studio:

On the eve of important strategic decisions on his agenda, Minister Arens met his U.S. counterpart Richard Cheney. As far as is known, he heard what he wanted to hear on the main issue: The United States will be prepared to go on financing the Arrow project. This antimissile missile is still in the development stage, and the United States would be financing some 80 percent of the project's cost. We should like to stress that no mention has been made of the United States financing its production. Neither has the United States asked Israel to commit itself now to finance the missile's production, which would begin not earlier than 1995. [passage omitted]

The launch of the Arrow missile is expected within the next few days. It is important to note that there is no connection, at this point at least, between the Arrow project and the U.S.-made Patriot missile, an antiaircraft missile transformed for missile warfare. Nevertheless, Israeli Army sources fear that the purchase of the Patriot might be used as an excuse by the Americans to sell it to Israel's neighboring Arab countries. This alone is good enough reason not to buy it. In any case, there is as yet no decision concerning the Patriot, but the chances of its purchase are small.

As for the Lavi, Minister Arens proposed to the Americans to use the systems of the technological aircraft Lavi-3, not to revive the project. After all, the project had been financed by U.S. funds. The chances that the Americans might accept the proposal look rather dim at this point.

IDF 'Very Angry' With Arens

TA2307091590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jul 90 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpts] IDF [Israel Defense Force] circles are very angry with Defense Minister Moshe Arens for making a decision on the Arrow project and the Patriot system which runs counter to the recommendation of the chief of staff and the Air Force commander. Senior Army elements said yesterday: The significance of the defense minister's decision is that in the next six years, at least, Israel will have no answer to the missile threat. [passage omitted]

Security elements said yesterday that entering the Arrow project is "an adventure whose end is impossible to foresee; in addition, it is doubtful whether the IDF will have the funds for the procurement phase." Furthermore, unlike the Lavi, which had an American alternative, "the Arrow has no alternative." [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Says No Aggressive Lebanon Intentions

TA2207181090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The fighting in Lebanon was discussed today in the cabinet's weekly meeting and in talks between Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding arrived in Israel after talks in Lebanon and Syria. The reason for today's meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu was to discuss the renewal of the latest six-month period of UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. But knowing well Israel's fear that a further escalation of the Amal-Hizballah clashes could endanger Israel's interests in southern Lebanon, Goulding asked Netanyahu what Jerusalem intends to do. The deputy foreign minister told the UN under secretary Israel has only its defense and not aggressive intentions in mind. Goulding voiced concern that the fighting could spread to areas where UNIFIL soldiers are stationed. [passage omitted]

Bin-Nun Warns Jordan on Iraqi Military Ties

JN2007184490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Israel's Air Force Commander Major General Bin-Nun today served a warning to Jordan over its military cooperation with Iraq. The Israeli general said Jordan is playing with fire by having close military ties with Iraq, which, according to him, threatens Israel not only with words, but with deeds.

Al-Najah University 16th Reopened in Territories

TA2107172890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Al-Najah University in Nabulus reopened today. This is the last of the 16 Judaea and Samaria universities to reopen after a long period of closure.

Adviser Criticizes Call for Israeli Arab Autonomy

JN2207210990 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Interview with Eli'ezer Sofer, prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, by 'Umar Zaydani, carried within the "With the Events" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Mr. Eli'ezer Sofer, prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, good evening.

[Sofer] Good evening.

[Zaydani] As we heard yesterday during the congress of the democratic movement [not further identified], there were voices calling for something like self-rule for Arab citizens in Israel. What is your comment?

[Sofer] Regrettably, there have recently been many statements, expressions, and positions by some leaders of the Arab community which, I personally believe, pose a social threat to the Jewish-Arab entity in the country. I am not saying that there are some unlawful things—this is the business of the security organs in terms of interrogation and arrest as happened when the interior minister ordered the closure of SAWT AL-HAQ and AL-HURIYYAH newspapers. I am just speaking from a social point of view. I suggest that the leaders of the Arab community ask themselves about the motives of these statements, which produce no positive results and require no government action. They only obstruct things and have, I believe, an undesirable impact on the joint Jewish-Arab entity.

[Zaydani] There is another phenomenon, Mr. Sofer—namely, inviting figures from the territories as though these figures were representatives of official bodies.

[Sofer] There have recently been invitations to and contacts with figures from the territories. There are also congratulations coming from abroad—from figures toward whom the position of the Israeli public is very well known. Even if this is not against the law, it certainly has many aspects which are undesirable to the majority and the government. I am therefore saying that the leaders of the community and those who are making these statements should ask themselves what their purpose is and what the next steps will be. Where will another threat or statement against the Jewish-Arab entity lead us?

[Zaydani] As adviser to the prime minister for Arab affairs, what do you suggest in this respect? Are you personally worried?

[Sofer] Yes, I am certainly worried, and so are other government officials. We have a common denominator to be concerned about day and night; namely, the interests of the Arab citizens in the country in terms of budgets and basic services to Arab villages and municipalities. We do not want anything which we have no common ground on—things which constitute a threat, as I said. It is better for us all to focus on the common ground between us.

[Zaydani] Mr. Eli'ezer Sofer, thank you.

[Sofer] You are welcome.

Patrol Kills PFLP 'Saboteurs' at Syrian Border

JN2207151090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A Jordanian Government spokesman has said that a Jordanian military patrol killed four armed saboteurs affiliated with a radical sabotage organization based in Damascus. The four were trying to infiltrate into Jordan from Syria. The spokesman said that the saboteurs, members of the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], were killed Saturday night when they were spotted by the patrol during their attempt to infiltrate Jordanian territory. The clash between the members of the patrol and the four saboteurs was brief and resulted in the immediate deaths of all the saboteurs, he stated, adding that the saboteurs were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, silencer-equipped guns, and hand grenades.

Infiltrators 'Damascus-Based'

JN2307070990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 3

[By Ghadir Tahir, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—An army patrol shot dead four armed men when they tried to infiltrate into Jordanian territory from Syria, a security source said Sunday.

The account was confirmed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which said the incident took place at 10 p.m. Saturday.

According to Petra, the infiltrators were spotted by Jordanian security forces who asked them to stop and when the order was disobeyed opened fire and killed the four. There was no casualty on the Jordanian side, the agency said.

The Petra report, quoting an official source, did not give details, except that the incident took place in an area mostly used by drug and arms smugglers for illegal entry into the Kingdom.

The security source told the Jordan Times the four were carrying "cards identifying them as members the PFLP-GC"—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril. "However, we do not think they were members of the PFLP-GC but of another Damascus-based group," added the source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The source would not identify the group, but several splinter Palestinian groups are based in Syria, including a dissident group of the Islamic Jihad

'Aziz To Arrive 22 Jul; King To Leave for Cairo

JN2207125790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan is currently exerting quiet efforts to calm the situation on various Arab fronts, particularly in the dispute that emerged last week following Iraq's accusations against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. King Husayn today received a message from Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah in which he explains his country's position on the Iraqi accusations against it. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is now in Cairo, is expected to arrive in Amman this evening, while the Jordanian king will leave for Cairo the day after tomorrow, Tuesday. [as heard]

A high-level source stressed to our radio that Amman wants to contain the Arab differences within the Arab framework and not to give international parties the opportunity to intervene in the region's affairs.

Amman is tied to Baghdad, Cairo, and Sanaa with the Arab Cooperation Council, whose leaders yesterday held contacts over the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. Bayt al-Maqdis as well as the Fatah Uprising led by Sa'id Musa (Abu-Musa). Both groups have claimed responsibility for past infiltration attempts and attacks against Israel across Jordan's demarcation line with the Jewish state.

The security source could not say whether any paper carried by the four shot dead Saturday indicated whether they planned to stage attacks in Jordan or attempt to cross the demarcation line.

According to sources quoted by Reuters said the four carried Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifle, silencer-fitted handguns and hand grenades. [sentence as published]

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the Lower House of Parliament earlier this year that there were over 80 infiltrations into Jordan from Syria but they did not all involve political or military objectives. Some infiltrators were trying to smuggle in goods, including cigarettes and sheep.

Jordan and Syria agreed in January during Syria Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi's visit to Jordan to cooperate to help prevent border incursions.

King Husayn Leaves for Egypt on 'Working Visit'

JN2307092790 Amman Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today on a short working visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn, speakers of both houses of the parliament, the chief chamberlain, his majesty's political adviser, the minister of interior, chief of the general staff, and a number of high level civic and military officials.

His majesty the king was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the foreign minister.

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD2207101190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0920 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, July 22 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi Sunday arrived here within his current tour to deliver messages from the amir of Kuwait on the Iraq complaint to the Arab League last Monday [16 July].

Al-'Awadi is to convey the message to Jordanian monarch King Husayn Bin Talal later this afternoon.

The Kuwaiti minister was received by his Jordanian counterpart Hikmat al-Saqat, the charge d'affaires at Kuwait's embassy in Amman Faysal al-Mukhayzim, as well other officials.

Qaddumi Comments on U.S. Dialogue

JN2107204590 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office at noon today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The situation in the region, especially political developments in the Palestine issue, was discussed at the meeting. They also reviewed fraternal relations between Jordan and the State of Palestine. Following the meeting, Qaddumi spoke to Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our political affairs correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] We are pleased to meet with brother Marwan al-Qasim, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with the aim of coordinating stands and bolstering joint Arab action for the sake of serving the Arab nation's central cause, represented by the question of Palestine, and consolidating the blessed intifadah and our people's steadfastness in the occupied territories. We also reviewed the recent developments in the region and the political efforts, in addition to the Zionist entity's constant threats against sisterly Jordan. We also discussed the need to bolster Arab cooperation for the sake of confrontation as well as the need to strengthen pan-Arab security.

[Dhiyab] What is Mr. Qaddumi's comment on the recent decision adopted at the meeting in Tunis?

[Qaddumi] There is no doubt that Arab cooperation is essential to end Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

[Dhiyab] The meeting also called for the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

[Qaddumi] We say explicitly and frankly that although this dialogue ran in a vicious circle, China engaged the United States for 20 years. If resuming the dialogue means a real recognition of the PLO, that would be an advanced step. Suspending the dialogue means that the U.S. policy is still biased toward Israel and the U.S. Administration is still subjected to Zionist blackmail. In its capacity as a superpower claiming responsibility for peace, the U.S. Adminstration should know that the Palestinian people will not make concessions or neglect their rights, but will continue their struggle until they restore their full national rights and terminate the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

[Dhiyab] Thank you, Mr. Qaddumi.

[Qaddumi] It is my pleasure; you are welcome.

U.S. Warned Against Interfering in Oil 'Crisis'

JN2007111990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Good Efforts To Solve a Minor Crisis"]

[Text] All Arab efforts and contacts made in various directions indicate a common pan-Arab desire to solve the recent oil crisis among a number of fraternal states. This makes us optimistic about the possibility of settling this minor crisis and restoring normal, traditional relations.

Perhaps the first result to be achieved by current Arab efforts would be to prevent the escalation of the crisis and bar the emergence of a vicious circle of reactions, which otherwise might lead to consequences that are not in the best interest of any of the parties involved.

We must draw the attention of brothers to current strong foreign attempts to aggravate the crisis, fish in troubled waters, and achieve goals that serve only the Arab nation's common enemy.

For example, the United States has rapidly taken the initiative and declared its support for the Arabian Gulf states, as if these states were facing real threats. It did so while still turning a deaf ear to the many different Israeli threats against more than one Arab state.

We hope that the active Arab efforts will achieve their noble aims. We also hope that the Arabian Gulf states to which the U.S. statements were addressed will declare their rejection of the U.S. stand and consider it flagrant interference in internal Arab affairs, especially since the parties concerned have addressed their memos and complaints to the Arab League. This means that these parties are acting in a manner that shows that this minor crisis is an Arab affair.

Lower House Makes Statement on Iraq-Kuwait Rift

JN2307072290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—[passage omitted] The Lower House of Parliament issued a statement calling on Iraq and Kuwait to settle the dispute through Arab national institutions and to ensure that the issue was not internationalised.

The statement read:

"The Lower House of Parliament, while following up with extreme concern the latest developments between the two sister Arab countries Iraq and Kuwait, calls on the leaders of the two countries to settle their differences peacefully and in a spirit of brotherhood through the Arab national institutions to prevent the internationalisation of the issue.

"By doing so, the leaderships of the two countries can foil the attempts by malicious countries, headed by the United States, the protector and defender of Israel, to exploit inter-Arab differences.

"Such attempts are aimed at splitting the Arab Nation and destroying the future of its generations.

"The Lower House, while confident of the wisdom of both the leaderships of Iraq and Kuwait and of their ability to settle their differences themselves and through the good offices of their Arab brethren and the Arab League, implores God to inspire the leaderships of the two countries and give them the right guidance to settle their differences peacefully and in a spirit of brotherhood and love."

Palestinians From West Bank Remain in Jordan

JN2107072390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 July 90 p 1

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Text] Amman—A total of 70,000 residents have failed to return to the occupied West Bank despite Jordanian regulations discouraging their extended stay here after the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories, according to Governor Muhammad Majid al-'Udwan, head of the Ministry of Interior's Follow-up and Inspection Department.

Al-'Udwan said the figure represents 10 percent of the population of the West Bank.

He said the department was embarking on the necessary steps to ensure the return of those people to the occupied West Bank in line with the Jordanian government's regulations, designed to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and foil Israeli plans to evict Palestinians from the West Bank and settle Soviet Jewish immigrants there.

Al-'Udwan said that the department provides all facilities to the West Bankers on their arrival, stay and departure.

However, the concerned Jordanian authorities stipulate that West Bankers and Gazans should not use the Israeli airports when leaving the West Bank or Gaza in a bid to ban the immigration of these people from the occupied territories. He noted that the authorities ask them to use either the King Husayn or Prince Muhammad bridges on the River Jordan upon leaving or entering the West Bank.

The Israeli authorities are also limiting the number of Palestinians going to the occupied territories across the bridge in violation of an agreement reached with the United Nations Truce Committee.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said that last week the Israelis reduced the number of visitors gradually, far below the quota agreed on with the committee which is 1,500 persons per day across the Prince Muhammad Bridge on normal days and 800 on Fridays, and 2,500 persons per day across the King Husayn Bridge on normal days and 1,250 on Fridays.

The gradual reduction was felt last week and no reason was given by the Israeli authorities, the PSD official said.

Kuwaiti Minister Meets King, Issues Statement

JN2207170890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who handed his majesty a message from his brother the amir of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the king's political adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Dr. Al-'Awadi left Amman this afternoon. In a statement to our correspondent, he praised His Majesty King Husayn's great interest in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. He said that his majesty stressed to him that he will do his best to contain this dispute and achieve Arab stability and solidarity.

Replying to our correspondent's question on his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, Dr. al-'Awadi said:

[Begin recording] [al-'Awadi] I had the honor of meeting his majesty the king and conveying to him a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir, amir of Kuwait, on what the Iraqi brothers raised in their memorandum to the Arab League. The meeting was good and, as usual, his majesty was aware of and greatly concerned about the subject. We know that his majesty is one of the leaders who has been following the issue all along; he has a full grasp of the subject. After our talks, his majesty expressed the hope that, God willing, Arab issues will be contained calmly and wisely without excitement and without, as it were, raising issues not linked to facts. We hope that the meeting and other meetings between Arab officials and leaders will prevent any developments against the wishes of any Arab, especially now that the entire Arab nation needs solidarity and concerted efforts against those who intend evil for us. We should always rise above secondary differences. His majesty conveyed through me his greetings to his highness and stressed that he will do his best, as he always does, to contain such issues, create stability, and support all that will achieve Arab solidarity at a time when it is highly needed. We wish him success and hope that this issue proves to be a passing and simple matter that does not spoil the solid Arab relations, which need to be good in the interest of this nation, especially since we now face major challenges and must close our ranks to block the road before those who seek to create divisions. [end recording]

Asked about the results of the contacts and consultations held among a number of Arab capitals over the past two days to contain the dispute between the two fraternal countries, Dr. al-'Awadi said:

[Begin recording] [al-'Awadi] We are Arabs and we must always meet together and not allow anyone to interfere in our affairs. The aim of all the recently held talks is clear; namely, to contain the issue and prevent anyone from exploiting secondary issues. All contacts are aimed at bolstering and strengthening Arab bonds, God willing. [end recording]

Kuwaiti Amir's Envoy Holds Talks With King

LD2207163490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1503 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, July 22 (KUNA)—Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi left here Sunday for Syria after delivering a message to King Husayn of Jordan from the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The message dealt with the complaint presented by Iraq to the Arab League earlier this month against Kuwait.

Al-'Awadi arrived here this afternoon within the framework of a tour of a number of Arab capitals to deliver messages from the amir of Kuwait to their leaders.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet affairs 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi Sunday expressed satisfaction at his talks with King Husayn of Jordan and said the Jordanian monarch is "keen to clear the atmosphere between brothers."

In a statement to KUNA, the Kuwaiti minister said, "I sensed an understanding from the Jordanian monarch and a genuine desire to contain the sudden dispute between Iraq and Kuwait."

Al-'Awadi also expressed hope that the "leading role of King Husayn and other Arab leaders would enable them to contain such issues between brothers.

He welcomed the contacts and efforts being exerted by Arab leaders to put an end to any deterioration in both countries' relations and stressed that the Kuwaiti leadership always supports Arab solidarity and stands firm with other Arab countries against whoever wants to harm the region.

"There is no gap between us and our Iraqi brothers and what is between us is bigger than these side issues," said Al-'Awadi. He recalled a statement by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir in which he said that what is between Kuwait and Iraq is mere a summer cloud which will soon be disappeared.

Independent Committee To Finish Corruption Probe

JN2107160290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 21 Jul (PETRA)—In a session today chaired by House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers, the House of Representatives decided to form a committee made up of seven representatives to complete investigations into financial and administrative corruption issues, which were referred to the House by the public prosecutor. This committee comprises Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the financial committee; Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, spokesman of the financial committee; Husayn Mujalli, chairman of the legal committee; Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris, spokesman of the legal committee; Eng. Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah; Salim al-Zu'bi; and Eng. Layth Shubaylat. The decision to form this committee was made after the public prosecution decided that it is not authorized to examine such issues.

On the basis of this decision, and in accordance with Article 56 of the Constitution, the House of Representatives will have the right to level accusations against the ministers. Accordingly, an accusation can only be made if there is a majority or two-thirds vote of the House of Representatives. This article stipulates that the House will appoint one of its members to level the accusation and to defend it before the higher council for the trial of ministers. [passage omitted]

Several representatives earlier asked questions about the nature of this committee's work, jurisdiction, and role; how to determine accusations on these issues; and the extent of the required cooperation to guarantee the success of this committee's work. The representatives also stressed the importance of this issue and its sensitive nature. They also stressed that there must be caution in dealing with this issue, especially since it is one that concerns all citizens and which will put an end to corruption.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran pointed out that the government had earlier provided the House with the required documents on this issue and expressed its willingness to provide the House with the economic, financial, and other expertise to help in any required field. He emphasized that the government has no role in the accusation because it has no legal capacity and such issues fall under the jurisdiction of the judiciary. He stressed the importance of the investigation taking a sound legal course. He pointed out that the preliminary investigation of such issues is in the jurisdiction of the public prosecution.

Iran Offers To Mediate in Amal-Hizballah Clash

Envoy Conveys Message to Al-Huss

LD2107150390 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 21, IRNA—Gholam Reza Valizadeh, the man in charge of the Iranian Embassy here, on Saturday submitted a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Prime Minister Salim al-Huss thanking him for expressing solidarity with Iran over the June 21 quake disaster.

Valizadeh also reiterated the Islamic Republic's regret over the renewed fighting between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah region in southern Lebanon which he said had been exploited by certain compromising factions.

Yasir 'Arafat's men have been deployed between Amal and Hizballah in the battle scene to help the Amal militias. According to latest reports, the Palestinian guerrilas, pro-Israeli Christians and Amal militias have formed an alliance to oust Hizballah from a south Lebanon village it captured in Monday's fighting with Amal forces.

Scores of people from both sides have been killed and wounded in fierce fighting which began near Jarju' village early Saturday. The two sides have lost many of their men since Monday when they resumed fighting.

Valizadeh pledged Tehran's readiness to mediate between the two warring sides to end their differences in accordance with an accord they signed in Damascus last year following joint mediation by Iran and Syria.

Al-Huss hailed the Islamic Republic for its assistances to the Lebanese people and for its efforts to solve Muslims' problems. He also called for an immediate end to the fratricide between the two Shi'ite groups.

Al-Huss Receives Messages

NC2107125890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received today a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and another oral message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two messages stressed that the Iranian Government supports Lebanon's unity and all efforts to ensure peace and stability in it. The messages were conveyed by Gholam Reza Valizadeh, the political counsellor at the Iranian Embassy. [title as received]

In a reply he handed to Valizadeh, Dr. al-Huss asked the Iranian leadership to exert all possible efforts to help the Lebanese Government end the existing deterioration in the situation.

Following his meeting with al-Huss, Valizadeh said their talks covered efforts and developments, particularly the question of Iqlim al-Tuffah. He added: We conveyed to Dr. al-Huss our willingness to resolve this problem.

Valizadeh Arrives in Sidon

NC2207150290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Intermittent clashes between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen, in which medium- and light-caliber weapons as well as rocket and artillery fire are being used, continue in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Amal sources have reported that a member of the movement was killed and three others injured by Israeli shelling of the village of Jarju'. Hizballah, for its part, reported that Jarju' came under violent Israeli shelling and that Amal is using rockets and artillery fire to shell some vilages in the region. [passage omitted]

In another developent, Gholam Reza Valizadeh, political adviser at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, [title as heard] arrived in Sidon at noon today. He said he will hold talks with Sidon officials on the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. While condemning the ongoing battles there, he expressed Iran's willingess to contribute to finding a solution on the basis of the Damascus agreement, with the cooperation of the Syrians.

Continues Mediation

LD2207170290 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Sidon, South Lebanon July 22 IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by Gholam Reza Valizadeh, who is in charge of the Islamic Republic's embassy in Beirut, continued its talks with Lebanese religious and political personalities here today.

Shaykh Maher Hamoud, a member of the Lebanese Ulema assembly after his talks with the Iranian delegation stressed the unity of the Iranian position and that of the Lebanese Muslim groups, and called for implementation of the Damascus accord.

"I invite Muslim brothers of Amal and Hizballah to end the clashes and point their arms at the Zionist regime," he said.

Valizadeh also told IRNA that the aim of the visit to Sidon is implementation of the Damascus accord in the light of the Iranian and Syrian support, in order to end the clashes between Amal and Hizballah.

"The best way for ending the hostilities is negotiation not resorting to arms," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Islamic groups in Lebanon held a joint session here Saturday night to find a solution to Amal-Hizballah clashes.

A resolution issued at the end of the meeting called for peaceful talks between the warring groups and abandoning any kind of hegemony which might lead to the partition of Lebanon.

The resolution also invited Iran and Syria to interfere to end the clashes, and urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation to revise its Lebanon policy.

British Parliamentary Delegation Arrives in Beirut

NC2207200790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A British parliamentary delegation consisting of three Conservative members of parliament arrived in Beirut this evening on a three-day official visit to Lebanon. During their visit, the members of the delegation will meet with senior Lebanese officials, including President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss. Deputy Rafiq Shahin, representing the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and 'Atif Janabayh, acting secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies, welcomed the delegation at the airport.

Member of Parliament Robert [name indistinct] said at the airport that the purpose of the visit is to affirm the British Government's support for the Lebanese Government. He noted that the Lebanese issue is an internal matter and the Lebanese must cooperate to solve it. The British member of parliament stated that Lebanon has been suffering from Israeli occupation for a long time. He said: We denounce the Israeli actions. We also denounce the Israeli actions in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan. He declared that the delegation's visit has nothing to do with the issue of foreign hostages.

Deputy Shahin said: We welcome the visit of our British colleagues. We regard such official visits as confirmation of other countries' support for the al-Ta'if agreement and Lebanese legitimacy.

Meets Speaker Al-Husayni

NC2307151290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The British parliamentary delegation which arrived in Beirut last night has begun consultations with senior Lebanese officials within the framework of its visit to Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. At noon today, the delegation called on Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at his house. The delegation consists of three Conservative members of parliament. They are Robert Adley, John Rathbone, and Colin Shepherd.

After the meeting, Adley said: I came to Lebanon with my wife about two years ago on a trip full of adventure. We arrived by land from Damascus. This time, we came through Beirut Airport. The trip was safe and free of any adventure. We came to present our greetings to Speaker al-Husayni, renew the invitation to him to visit the speaker of the British House of Commons, and express our support for your government.

Asked whether the delegation will meet with other Lebanese figures, he said: We would like to meet with the largest number of political figures during our stay here. We want to have a close look at the situation. Our objective is to support your government under President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and that is the purpose of our presence here.

Asked how in his opinion Britain can help in solving the Lebanese problem amid the existing contradictions, he said: It would be rude and stupid to comment on your internal problems. However, the British Government and the EC strongly support the UN Security Council resolutions. We will continue to support efforts to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the South.

Regarding the present situation, he said: Since our last visit two years ago, the situation has tangibly improved.

Al-Hirawi Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Message on Iraq

NC2307144490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a message today from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on developments between Kuwait and Iraq. Kuwaiti Minister of State Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi conveyed the message to him.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, who is accompanying the Kuwaiti minister on his visit to Lebanon, attended the meeting between al-Hirawi and al-'Awadi.

Palestinian Deployment in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

Fadlallah Criticizes Forces

NC2007164290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the Palestinian deployment along the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said: The arena does not need a disengagement force, but rather dialogue and an understanding. He called on the Palestinians not to get involved in an internal dispute, noting that complications may lead to a new war, which could be beteen the Lebanese and Palestinians.

In his Friday sermon, Fadlallah called on those in charge of the Damascus agreement to supervise its implementation. He also called on the Syrian and Iranian presidents to take action toward a solution, saying that they both have the power to restore normalcy.

Fatah Denies Involvement

NC2107140590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Fierce clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah resumed at 1430 today following a period of relative calm which lasted for approximately one hour. The fighting is taking place mainly on the 'Arab Salim-Jarju' front. [passage omitted]

Zayd Wahbah, political official of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement in the South, has announced that Palestinian positions in Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, 'Arab Salim, and Humin al-Fawqa have come under intensive artillery bombardment from Hizballah positions. He said: The bombardment was designed to involve our forces as a party in a marginal battle. We have refused to become involved and are committed not to retaliate.

Source on Purpose of Deployment

NC2107201290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Amid repeated attacks and counterattacks by the warring parties, reports on the course of the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah are conflicting. While Amal sources reported that the movement controlled a large part of the village of Jarju', Hizballah denied the report, asserting that Jarju' is still under its control and that it has managed to repulse all attacks since the morning. Today's shelling reached the villages of 'Arab Salim, Humin al- Fawqa, Kafr Bayt, Kafr Milki, Sarba, and Kafr Hatta. Although it was difficult to count the victims, REUTER said that today's battles left 45 dead, including eight from Hizballah and three Palestinians from the disengagement force, and 70 injured. In its casualty count, AFP said 75 have been killed and 208 injured since Monday.

According to a Palestinian source in Sidon, the purpose of the Palestinian deployment is to stop Hizballah's advance toward al-Nabatiyah. The source added that after having been shelled by Hizballah, the Palestinians held contacts with Hizballah, which apologized later on.

Officials, Groups Suggest Solutions to Unrest

George Hawi Offers Ideas

NC2107150290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has stressed that the Israeli factor is the principal one in the South. He added that it is a source of pressure and of the difficulties facing the nationalist and Islamic forces in that area.

In an interview with our radio, he said: Out of concern for the Palestinian issue, I appeal to the PLO not to expand in the South now on the pretext of disengaging the warring parties. He stressed that the danger does not come from the settlement of Palestinians in the long term, but from forcing them to immigrate to Lebanon by dispersing them in the world. He stressed that it is a mistake to ignore the PLO while searching for a solution to the Lebanese crisis because such disregard would constitute a loophole in every solution and a way to intensify the conflict and render any solution a failure.

Hawi expressed his belief that it is necessary to engage Iran in dialogue on a solution for the Lebanese crisis. He criticized those who consider this to be an interference in Lebanese politics. He added: Why don't these people act and consult with the Vatican, France, the United States, and the entire world to exert pressure on Michel 'Awn or Samir Ja'ja' in order to protect the Arab solution for the crisis?

Hawi called for a radical solution for the situation in the South and for the Amal-Hizballah differences. He said that this is a long mission of struggle without which no solution can last. He added: It would be a good idea if a national figure, a figure agreed on by the nationalist forces, such as Comrade Walid Junblatt, were to call for a meeting, to be attended by all the nationalist and Islamic parties, at which the crisis of national action and the crisis in the Amal-Hizballah relationship could be debated in depth. These crises are not restricted to the South but extend to all the Lebanese areas. Then we can all go to Damascus to discuss with the Syrian leadership its desire to put an end to this conflict, the regional ramifications of which constitute a national and pan-Arab danger. We can then discuss the issue with Iran so as to reach a result. We can also examine with the PLO the bases for reaching a positive role for it in any solution and a real disengagement between the warring parties, rather than the mere appearance of a disengagement which only complicates the crisis. [passage omitted]

Regarding the campaign by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt against the Communist Party and some of its institutions, Hawi said: I regret to say that dear Comrade Junblatt was not right in this campaign. We were preparing and debating ways of strengthening the relationship between the two parties only days before the campaign began. We were surprised by a battle which is right in essence but which began without any consultation or agreement with us on priorities and roles. He reiterated the call to open everyone's files and thanked Junblatt for raising important issues. He said: His observations about the Communist Party are constructive and positive. We initiated the consultations and said we are ready to discuss matters. He added that the relationship between the two parties is not the personal fief of Walid Junblatt and George Hawi; its bases were laid down by Kamal Junblatt who influenced our party ideologically and organizationally. [passage omitted]

Army Contacts Amal, Hizballah

NC2007200190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army Command today began contacts with the Amal Movement and Hizballah. These contacts are aimed at putting an end to the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah and in preparation for sending army forces to the area and extending the legitimate government authority.

Hizballah Endorses Hawi's Plan

NC2107072090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Hizballah has announced that despite all the hideous and historic crimes that the Amal Movement has perpetrated and is perpetrating against the South and its inhabitants and against the mujahidin and resistance, we are renewing our willingness to respond favorably to any sincere effort to find a final and comprehensive solution that ensures the continuation of the resistance and guarantees the peace and safety of our dear folks in Jabal 'Amil.

In this respect, we regard as very positive the seven-point initiative proposed by the Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi in a generous attempt by him to resolve the existing problem. Hizballah supports this initiative and the points it contains. Hizballah regards this initiative as capable of ending the fighting and of providing a foundation for settling the conflict in a way that safeguards the resistance and ensures the freedom of action. The initiative is a valid approach to reorganize matters in the national and Islamic arenas.

Hizballah Calls for Amal Dialogue

NC2107143090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] While visiting Islamic resistance fighters injured during the attacks of the Amal-Birri gangs and the remnants of the parties that support them, His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, has stressed that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri is willing to hand over the South to anyone who covets it. He said that Birri, who once claimed that he fought 'Arafat and protected the South from him, is now giving the South away as a present.

He added: We do not want to be the leaders or hold sway. He called on the Amal Movement to enter a dialogue and reach an understanding.

Birri Ready To End Fighting

NC2007162590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, visited Amal Movement leader attorney Nabih Birri this afternoon. After the meeting, al-Amin emphasized that Minister Birri is ready to end the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah in a way that guarantees the citizens' interests regardless of the Amal Movement's interests.

Citing a Palestinian source in Sidon, REUTER said that the Palestinian disengagement force took up positions on the hills overlooking Dayr al-Zahrani and Habbush to prevent any Hizballah penetration of Habbush, al-Nabatiyah, and 'Arab Salim villages. The source added that the force deployed between the Amal and Hizballah positions consists of 500 Palestinians.

Ja'ja' Supports Al-Ta'if

NC2107102390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has said that the legitimacy represented in President Ilyas al-Hirawi is our legitimacy. We do not place any conditions on that legitimacy or seek to make gains at its expense.

In an interview with AL-MASHRIQ television broadcast on the night of 19 July and rebroadcast last night by the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, Ja'ja' said that the plan proposed by the government is indivisible. He noted that Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi told him that the plan is an integral whole and that it could only be implemented or discarded as such.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that the failure to hand over B'abda to the legitimate authority is a blow to sovereignty and the power of the state. Ja'ja' said that B'abda has traditionally been considered the seat of decisionmaking in the country. Therefore, President al-Hirawi should taken control of B'abda Palace, even if he decided to reside elsewhere later on.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that al-Ta'if agreement is a valid approach to a solution. He added: We are for the al-Ta'if agreement, but we reserve the right to have a say on its clauses. Al-Ta'if is not a final solution, but a temporary settlement of the conditions created by the war of liberation.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that al-Ta'if agreement, in some of its clauses, comes closer to endorsing decentralization than any other document to date. The executive authority is now shared by the president and prime minister, which makes it (?rather) centralized. However, according to the al-Ta'if agreement, executive authority will be placed in the hands of the cabinet, and this will make that body a form of presidential council. When authority is shared by all the cabinet members, this is decentralization and decentralized leadership. More than one clause in al-Ta'if brings us closer to decentralization and takes us away from centralization.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that the legitimate authority is the strongest party in the arena, if it chooses to act. He underlined the fact that the state is present in the areas under the Lebanese Forces control in Beirut, Kasrawan, and Jubayl. Dr. Ja'ja' said that the state's legitimate institutions should be revived and that al-Ta'if should be discussed in the Chamber of Deputies.

Dr. Ja'ja' expressed his astonishment at the assistance that some Arab parties who have pledged commitment to al-Ta'if agreement are providing to General Michel 'Awn, a man who has made no secret of his hostility to the al-Ta'if agreement.

In answer to a question, Dr. Ja'ja' said that the solution should be reached by the Lebanese themselves, for it is unacceptable for us to beg for political, military, and other forms of support from abroad. The legitimacy, he said, should make up its mind and begin imposing its authority in a gradual manner. The legitimacy has more units under its control than Gen. Michel 'Awn, and these units are better equipped and at least as strong as 'Awn's, Ja'ja' said.

Dr. Ja'ja' asked: Why do they ask us to hand over the weapons which the Lebanese Forces have won from 'Awn's units? Have the weapons that were taken from the Lebanese Army when it lost western al-Shahhar been given back? The army has attacked us. Has the legitimacy sent it to fight us? If it did not, why does it now ask us to give back what we have taken? Gen. 'Awn's militia has attacked us, and we seized its weapons. What we have seized is war booty. Some of our equipment is in 'Awn's hands too. However, we do not close the door to the legitimacy of President al-Hirawi.

Concerning the situation in East Beirut, Dr. Ja'ja' said that the political situation is not linked to the military situation. What is needed, he said, is to end the issue of the prisoners completely. Dr. Ja'ja' said that the fighters must disengage. He expressed hope that the current crisis will be resolved before Christmas.

Dr. Ja'ja' denied the presence of Israeli experts in the areas under Lebanese Forces control. He also denied the presence of Palestinian forces. Dr. Ja'ja' expressed surprise at those who spread such rumors and wondered how could these combine the Israelis and Palestinians in one set of rumors.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that the relations between Lebanon and Syria should be based on mutual respect for the sovereignty, freedom, and independence of both countries.

Mufti Qabalan Calls for Action

NC2207175090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has called on the Lebanese Government to act urgently on the political and diplomatic levels to end the conflict in Iqlim al-Tuffah, to inform the fighters that what they are doing is unacceptable, and to tell those who back them to stop supplying them with weapons. He called on Syria and Iran, in their capacity as the sponsors of the Damascus agreement, to name the party which is hindering the implementation of this agreement. He also asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to send a fact-finding delegation.

Speaking at a memorial service held in al-Musaytibah this morning, Mufti Qabalan said that the solution in Iqlim al-Tuffah lies in the withdrawal of the fighters and the settling of accounts by civilized political dialogue and not by the destruction of the villages and houses. Mufti Qabalan proposed that the residents of Iqlim al-Tuffah be polled on what they want, and that their wishes be respected.

Islamic Groups Hold Meeting

NC2207200090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Lebanese Islamic Front, the Islamic Group, the Muslim Ulema Grouping, the Jabal 'Amil Ulema Committee, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Muslim Mujahidin Movement held a joint meeting last night in order to find a way to end the clashes between the Amal and Hizballah forces. The participants issued a statement in which they asserted the need to end the hostilities, hold peaceful talks, and reject any trend toward domination which could lead to the division of Lebanon. The statement appealed to Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran to intervene to end the clashes between the Amal and Hizballah forces, and also called on the PLO to reconsider its policy on Lebanon.

Fighting, Unrest Continues in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

Amal Denies Israeli Shelling

NC2007164490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] An Amal Movement military official in south Lebanon has denied Hizballah claims that its positions in Jabal Safi and Jarju' came under artillery fire from Israeli positions.

The official said these are mere allegations to cover up Hizballah's hostile intentions concerning Jabal 'Amil.

Lahd Denies SLA Involvement

NC2107073290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd has said: If the situation [in Iqlim al-Tuffah] keeps deteriorating, it will be difficult for us to remain inactive. Lahd denied that the SLA has taken part in the fighting except when its positions were shelled. Lahd said that the SLA will respond to the shelling of the areas under its control, particularly Jazzin.

VOM Reviews Situation

NC2107105490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Iqlim al-Tuffah war escalated today. Battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah intensified amid reports about significant developments in the explosive situation.

News agencies reported this morning that a Palestinian force from the Fatah Movement took part in the current fighting around Jarju' where each side is trying to seize control of this strategic town.

According to reports received this morning from various sources, fierce fighting broke out at dawn today on the Jarju'-'Arab Salim-Sarba front. Shells fell in the neighboring villages beyond the areas of the clashes. It has not yet been determined how many people were killed or wounded since early this morning. Some of the casualties have been moved to the hospitals.

The warring parties issued statements to explain the progress of the battles and to exchange accusations. Hizballah accused Amal Movement fighters of launching attacks on Hizballah positions in Jarju', 'Arab Salim, and Sarba, saying that its fighters foiled all these attacks. The Amal Movement, for its part, said that Hizballah launched attacks on its positions in Jarju' under the cover of indiscriminate shelling of the towns and villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

According to security reports, the attack on Jarju' took place on three fronts, and Amal Movement fighters launched another attack on the Kafr Hatta-Kafr Milki front. In the first attack Amal fighters were able to advance toward Jarju', where fierce battles took place until 0700. Amal and Palestinian fighters then attacked the northern approaches to Jarju' to cut the supply lines to Hizballah from 'Ayn Bu Siwar. This took place under heavy artillery and rocket fire.

At 1000, Hizballah fighters launched a counterattack on Amal Movement positions. Two Palestinian fighters were reportedly killed and three others wounded. The casualties are still on the battleground.

In its latest statement, the Amal Movement said that Hizballah fighters launched a fourth attack on Jarju' at 1000. Despite the heavy artillery and rocket fire, they were unable to make any advances in Jarju'. The heavy shelling was heard in areas very far from the areas of the fighting. Shells were occasionally falling at the rate of 45 per minute.

Meanwhile, officials are holding urgent, intensive contacts with both parties to achieve a cease-fire preparatory to political negotiations and to legitimacy's assuming control of the situation in the area. Government sources said that the cabinet is trying to find a formula, through the army command, to achieve a cease-fire and to permit the dispatch of a Lebanese Army force to Iqlim al-Tuffah. The sources said that this depends on the agreement of the two parties and an end to the fighting. The government sources affirmed that the Syrian leadership is working directly for a solution.

SSNP, Ba'th Join Amal

NC2107143890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Fierce battles continue to rage on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines, particularly the Jarju' front. Jarju' has turned into a ball of fire which can been seen with the naked eye from the Ayr al-Zahrani road. Since 0300 today Amal units have been carrying out a major offensive on Jarju' on three fronts—a two-pronged attack from the east and west of 'Arab Salim and a third attack from 'Ayn Qana. This is being done under cover of an intensive bombardment by mortars, long-range howitzers, and rocket launchers. Columns of thick, black smoke are rising from the entire Iqlim al-Tuffah area. Dozens of dead and wounded have fallen in the fighting, most of whom could not be evacuated due to the intense fighting. Amal military sources have reported that the movement's fighters have advanced far inside Jarju' and now have extensive control over the situation in the township. They also reported that Amal fighters are eliminating some pockets of resistance. A short time ago these sources told our correspondent that Amal fighters have come within 75 meters of the al-Saburi building on the township's northern approach from the direction of 'Ayn Bu Siwar. The sources said that Hizballah has been conducting a counteqroffensive since 1100 but Amal forces are repulsing the attack. [passage omitted]

Citing security sources, REUTER reports that Amal attacked Hizballah positions in Jarju' and slowly advanced a distance of 200 meters inside Jarju'. The sources told REUTER that 25 people have died and 40 have been injured in house-to-house fighting, which one injured fighter described as brutal.

The sources asserted that Palestinian fedayeen and 100 fighters belonging to the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] have been fighting alongside Amal in the current attack. In addition, Israeli and Palestinian artillery have provided cover for the attackers. 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon has, however, denied that his organization has participated in any battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah. In an interview with the Voice of the People, he stressed that the organization's fighters operate within the framework of the national resistance and fight solely against the Israeli occupation. He added that they refuse to take part in any marginal and futile battle. Al-Amin called for a cease-fire and for the withdrawal of gunmen from Iqlim al-Tuffah so that the Lebanese Army can deploy in their place.

Jarju' Situation Not 'Clear'

NC2107152590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] It is not yet clear whether Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah has decisively fallen to Amal and the Palestinians. Hizballah asserts that its positions in the township are holding fast. [passage omitted]

According to security sources, 120 people have been killed or injured in today's clashes. REUTER reported that 45 people have died and 70 have been injured in the fighting but pointed out that the relative positions of the warring sides have not changed much. The sources added that Jarju' came under heavy bombardment in which the South Lebanese Army took part. The sources told REUTER that intensive mobilization of equipment, particularly ammunition, is still going on in the area, which points to the possibility of further fighting. Hizballah suffered eight dead in Kafr Milki, including the party's military commander in the village. Four of the bodies were transferred to hospitals in Sidon.

It is reported that the Palestinian disengagement force, which has turned into a third warring party in Jarju', fighting alongside Amal, has suffered five injured. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Regains Jarju'

NC2107154590 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 21 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah militia regained control Saturday of a strategic Shiite Muslim village in south Lebanon after bitter fighting against the Syrian-backed group Amal, security sources said.

They said fierce exchanges of artillery were continuing around the village of Jarju', a former Amal stronghold captured by Hizballah Monday then partly retaken by the Syrian-backed militia after an offensive early Saturday.

At least 27 people were killed and 96 wounded in Saturday's fighting but the toll was expected to rise as the intensity of the fighting prevented rescue workers from retrieving bodies littering the battle zone, the sources said.

Amal managed to recover a third of Jarju', 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of this port city in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, after eight hours of fighting from dawn that left a cloud of black smoke hanging over the hill area.

But Hizballah had by late afternoon recaptured lost ground and regained full control of the village after a fierce counter-offensive, the sources said.

The military chief of the Palestinian Fatah, which Tuesday deployed 500 guerrillas in a bid to create a buffer force between the rival Shiite groups, confirmed here that Hizballah had regained full control of the village.

Colonel 'Ala' said his men were not involved in Saturday's fighting and dismissed reports by security sources that Palestinian guerrillas had backed Amal in the attack on Jarju'.

The sources said at least three fighters from Fatah—the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation—were killed in the fighting for Jarju' and 10 were wounded.

The Palestinian buffer force, strongly condemned by Hizballah, had Tuesday managed to stop the pro-Iranian fighters from advancing from Jarju' on al-Nabatiyah, the second largest Shiite town in south Lebanon.

At least 78 people, most of them combatants, have been killed and more than 200 wounded since Hizballah captured Jarju' Monday, according to figures compiled by Agence France-Presse from hospital and security sources.

In Beirut, Hizballah radio said the Muslim fundamentalist militia—in conflict for more than two years with the secular Amal group for control of Lebanon's Shiite community—had "successfully repelled all assaults."

Security sources earlier said Amal fighters had captured a Hizballah-held village, Kafr Milki, in an attack launched simultaneously Saturday with the assault on Jarju' further south. The village was handed over to Fatah.

More than 800 people have been killed and some 3,000 wounded in Amal-Hizballah fighting in south Lebanon and Beirut since April 1988. The conflict has defied repeated reconciliation bids by Iran and Syria.

Lebanese Army on Alert

NC2107171290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] According to reports from the South, the ranks of the Lebanese Army have been placed on a high state of alert. Leave has been canceled and combat troops have been recalled to their barracks.

Amal Infiltration Attempt Checked

NC2107192290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Fierce fighting continues between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Most of the fighting is taking place in the village of Jarju'. According to security sources, Hizballah fighters recaptured Jarju' this afternoon from Amal, which had succeeded in infiltrating it in the morning. For its part, the Amal Movement emphasizes that fighting is still raging at the northern entrance to the village and that its members still hold the positions they captured in the morning. [passage omitted]

At approximately 2100, Hizballah issued a statement saying that groups from Amal tried to infiltrate Jarju' at 2000, but Hizballah fighters discovered the attempt and confronted the infiltrators. After fierce clashes, the Amal gunmen retreated, suffering heavy casualties.

'Guarded Calm' Reported

NC2207070190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning, despite intermittent rocket and artillery exchanges between Hizballah fighters and the Amal-Birri groups, who have the support of 'Arafat's followers and a motley of other gunmen.

During yesterday's fierce clashes, Birri's groups and their supporters of other parties tried to regain control over Jarju'. These groups waged five attacks under cover of concentrated artillery fire. The occupation forces' artillery directed similar shelling at the positions of the Islamic resistance, who repulsed all the attacks.

The Islamic resistance stated that the the enemy positions in (al-Zaffatah), Sujud, and (Bi'r Kallab) took part in the shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. The resistance's artillery responded to the shelling appropriately.

Meanwhile, KUNA reported that the Zionist military planes waged mock raids over the Islamic resistance positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Beirut Updates Situation

NC2207122390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Clashes resumed this morning between the Amal and Hizballah positions on the combat lines in Jarju' township of Iqlim al-Tuffah. The clashes were less violent than those yesterday, and no attacks and counterattacks were recorded. The military situation was confined to exchanges of machine gun and rocket fire.

According to reports from the South, the villages surrounding Jarju' came under artillery fire reaching the residential areas, which appeared almost fully deserted after the inhabitants left for safer places. Thousands of inhabitants are gathering in public squares and on the roads between Dayr al-Zahrni and Habbush. Most of them spend their nights inside vehicles. People arriving from Jarju' report that the township has been completely deserted except for the fighters and that the houses have been destroyed and turned into heaps of rubble as a result of the fierce battles which took place inside the township yesterday and which, according to the latest reports, claimed 80 dead and 200 injured, mostly fighters. This is the highest number of casualties in one day in the Iqlim al-Tuffah war.

In light of the contradictory reports about the field situation in Jarju', Amal sources stressed this morning that the movement's fighters are standing firm in the positions they occupied inside Jarju' yesterday. Hizballah sources accused Amal of shelling Jarju' today saying that Hizballah fighters fully control the township. Reports from al-Nabatiyah district say both sides are bringing reinforcements and massing fighters in what appears to be preparation for a new round of fighting that is likely to start soon.

Israeli Flights Over Al-Tuffah

NC2207131290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Intermittent clashes continue between Amal and Hizballah positions on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines, interspersed with sporadic artillery and rocket fire. Meanwhile Israeli fighter aircraft flew over the area. The Israeli planes also flew over the mountain area at 1245, breaking the sound barrier. [passage omitted]

Intermittent Clashes Continue

NC2207173290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Intermittent skirmishes are continuing in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. According to the latest reports this evening, sporadic clashes involving the use of medium- and small-caliber weapons, rockets, and artillery are taking place on the outskirts of Jarju'. The reports say that Amal Movement fighters launched an attack on Jarju' hill this evening. It has been learned that four injured persons were taken to the government hospital in al-Nabatiyah this afternoon.

Clashes Resume 23 Jul

NC2307072790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] According to security reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, clashes were resumed on the axes in the area this morning. Artillery rounds and snipers' bullets fell in villages and townships.

In the meantime the two warring parties are strengthening their positions with more men and weapons. The Red Cross teams are trying to achieve a humanitarian truce in order to remove the bodies and casualties from the battlefield.

Israeli Forces Said Shelling

NC2307094990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The situation remains tense in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Intermittent clashes, including exchanges of mortar rounds, have been taking place between those in Hizballah and Amal Movement positions since this morning. [passage omitted]

Hizballah has announced that Jarju' township has been coming under 120-mm mortar fire since 1030 and that the occupation forces are taking part in this shelling. A Hizballah source had earlier stated that artillery rounds fell in Jarju' and 'Ayn Qana, and he appealed to the Red Cross to remove the bodies littering Jarju' streets. The source expressed readiness to facilitate the Red Cross mission. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Minister of State Arrives on Visit

Carries Message on Iraqi Memo

JN2207171690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jul (SANA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs in sisterly Kuwait, arrived in Damascus today with a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Al-'Awadi was received at Damascus International Airport by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Dr. al-'Awadi said: I am carrying a private message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, to President Hafiz al-Asad which is related to the Iraqi memo to the Arab League and the points of difference between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi viewpoints.

He added: I would like to express my happiness at visiting Damascus, the city of civilization and brotherhood, which sincerely supports joint Arab action at the highest levels.

He said: Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is, as we have always known, at the forefront of the countries which are seriously and sincerely working for the sake of joint Arab action. Syria's belief in its pan-Arab message, and the great pan-Arab sentiment that springs from this great Arab country, is known to everyone. No one can underestimate the role of this dear country and its militant president, Hafiz al-Asad, and his efforts in the field of joint Arab action.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

LD2307103290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, July 23 (KUNA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Monday received a message from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah on the recent dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.

The message was delivered to President al-Asad by the amiri envoy to Syria, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi during his meeting with the Syrian president here today.

The meeting was attended by the Syrian State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yasin Rajjuh and the Kuwaiti ambassdor in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

The Kuwaiti envoy, accompanied by al-Jasim, will head to Lebanon later in the day to convey a similar message to the Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi from the amir of Kuwait.

Damascus Notes Iraqi Dispute With Kuwait, UAE

JN2107205090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah today received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is making efforts to resolve the sudden crisis between Iraq on the one hand, and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on the other.

Within this context, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has received a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. The message was delivered by Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, Kuwait's minister of justice, who arrived in Algiers today from Nouakchott. The Kuwaiti minister is currently making a tour of the Arab Maghreb states to deliver a message to their leaders from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Baghdad today in a Saudi effort to resolve the sudden situation involving Kuwait and the UAE on the one hand, and Iraq on the other.

Al-Asad Expresses 'Concern'

JN2307124190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, envoy of the amir of Kuwait and minister of state for cabinet affairs.

The meeting was attended by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad received a written message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait, concerning the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. Dr. al-'Awadi explained to the president the nature and substance of the dispute.

The president declared his concern that the dispute not escalate and stressed the need to settle Arab differences through dialogue, because dialogue can bring about successful solutions and help achieve Arab solidarity and joint Arab action which the Arab nation needs and which is a pressing requirement so that the Arab nation can safeguard its rights in light of grave present and future challenges.

Paper Views Situation in South Lebanon, Solution

JN2307123690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jul (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN said in a commentary today that the quick developments in southern Lebanon point to coming dangers that could befall the Lebanese and that require that they all be careful and aware of what is happening and press on with the national accord march.

Under the title "Developments in the South and the Necessity for National Accord," the newspaper referred to Israel's feverish attempts to entrench its occupation of southern Lebanon, settle Jewish immigrants there, and rechannel its water. It said that the furious fighting among the national forces in the south greatly limits the continuation of national resistance operations against the occupation and agent positions. It gives Israel greater ease of movement to proceed with its projects of colonization, settlement, and water theft.

The newspaper stated that slowing down and stalling the al-Ta'if accord and the spread of the legitimate government's authority throughout Lebanon hampers dealing with the situation in the south and confronting Israeli schemes and intentions.

TISHRIN concludes by saying that dealing with the mounting situation in the south and liberating the area from the occupation begins with a united Beirut with the power of the legitimate government spreading its authority over all Lebanese territory. Only then will the problem of the south cease to be impossible to solve and will instead depend on the determination of all the Lebanese.

Soviet Congressional Delegation Visits

Received by Ba'th Official

JN2107133090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received a delegation from the USSR Congress of People's Deputies led by Valentin Afanasyevich Tetenov, a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The meeting was attended by comrade Shakir Is'id, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the ties of friendship between Syria and the Soviet Union and issues and tasks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Soviet Communist Party, and the two friendly peoples. During the meeting comrade al-Ahmar stressed the need to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East by holding an international conference under UN sponsorship which will restore Arab rights to their legitimate owners and in which the Soviet Union would play a basic role. He also said that he highly valued Syrian-Soviet friendship. For his part, comrade (Titonov) referred to his country's tasks within its reconstruction policy and emphasized his country's stand in support of the Arab cause and the legitimate Arab struggle. At the end of the meeting, he expressed his admiration for the accomplishments and changes he saw in Syria in the various fields. He wished the Syrian Arab people further advancement and prosperity.

Tetenov Expresses 'Solidarity'

JN2107150390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] A meeting was held this morning in Damascus at the People's Assembly between the Arab and External Affairs Committee of the Assembly, headed by Committee Chairman Mr. Shakir Is'id, and the delegation of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, headed by Mr. Valentin Afanasyevich Tetenov, a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In a speech he delivered at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Valentin [as heard] reasserted the Soviet Union's solidarity with Arab causes. Several members of the two delegations also delivered speeches on various issues. They made presentations in parliamentary, political, and other fields. The heads of the two delegations answered questions.

Meets With Vice President

JN2107190690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the USSR Congress of People's Deputies delegation led by comrade Valentin Afanasyevich Tetenov, a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at noon today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'id, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee. The talks covered the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, as well as the situation in the Middle East.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Financing of Arrow Tests

JN2207054790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Does the U.S. Financing of a Zionist Star Wars Mean?," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments in today's editorial on news reports from the U.S. capital to the effect that Zionist War Minister Arens, who is currently visiting Washington, has obtained the endorsement of his U.S. counterpart Dick Cheney to finance tests for the Arrow missile, which is directly related to the U.S. star wars program.

AL-BA'TH points out that this financing confirms once again that U.S.-Israeli policy is an indivisible whole and that everything that Washington says on Middle East peace is mere bubbles.

After saying in its editorial that the Arabs are adopting serious positions and that they are determined to regain their rights in full, the paper adds: It is to be recalled that the Alexandria visit by leader al-Asad and his lengthy talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak focused, in addition to multifaceted aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal states, on the need to take practical measures to build an effective pan-Arab position.

Commentary Calls for Adherence to UN Peace Plans

JN2007145690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The official call made by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council urging them to heed the cause of peace in the Middle East and aid the world body's efforts to achieve peace in the region reflects the grave international concern over the situation in the region and its latest developments, particularly the genocidal war being waged by Israel against the Arabs of the occupied territories. This call takes on an added significance in light of efforts currently under way to implement the Zionist plan to receive one million Jewish immigrants and settle them in the occupied Arab territories. It goes without saying that this development entails grave dangers that pose threats to the entire Arab entity, and jeopardize regional as well as world security and peace.

The call for convening an international conference to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region enjoys worldwide support, simply because the convocation of such a conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is an important opportunity and a basic step toward achieving peace. Israel rejects the international conference notion and strives to torpedo the foundations and components of such a conference, because Israel does not want peace. Peace would restore the occupied territories to their owners. Besides, it would shackle Israel in a manner that would prevent it from expanding in the future. At the very least, the attainment of peace would lay obstacles in the face of this expansion and also in the face of the realization of its Torah dreams.

Practically speaking, Israel does not support any UN resolution. It thinks of nothing but expansion through the use of force. This Israeli policy is being supported and backed by the United States. Otherwise, how would any observer explain the reaction of the U.S. Administration to Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for the representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council? Commenting on this call, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that his administration continues to believe that the parties to the regional conflict must remain the focus of any Middle East peace efforts. The U.S. Administration is well aware, before others, that Israel is pursuing an aggressive and expansionist anti-peace policy, and that it is working to expand at the expense of Arab territories, depending in this on a firm Zionist strategy designed to establish "Greater Israel". This fact should prompt the big powers led by the United States to pursue a balanced Middle East policy conducive to peace. Such a policy should not encourage the Israeli aggressors to persist in their dangerous policy, which jeopardizes regional as well as world peace.

The fact that the United States has thus far been providing Israel with political and diplomatic support on the international scene has prevented the international community from shouldering its responsibilities toward the regional situation to prevent Israel from pursuing a policy of aggression and expansion against the Arab nation. Furthermore, this U.S. support for Israel has also blocked international efforts to end the internationally-condemned genocidal war which Israel has been waging against the Arabs of the occupied territories.

The resumption of the work of the international peace conference under UN auspices, the conference which held a single session in the wake of the October 1973 war and adjourned thereafter because of Israel's intransigent stands, would constitute an important opportunity and a vital step toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This would requires all world states, especially the permanent members of the UN Security Council, to take on their responsibilities and respond favorably to the requirements for achieving a just peace in the region. For to ignore the dangers posed by the escalation of the Israeli policy of aggression—including those created by the new Jewish emigration to the occupied territories—would result in future instability and bring about catastrophes whose far-reaching and untold consequences would not remain exclusive to the region. No, the consequences of such catastrophes would affect the entire world. Establishing a just peace in the Middle East is the responsibility of the entire international community. The new call by Javier Perez de Cuellar has come as a warning to the world and to the big powers of the consequences of failing to see the dangers inherent in the continuation of the volatile situation in the Middle East without any serious international efforts to address it and remove its causes.

Javier Perez de Cuellar has shown the way to avoiding these dangers by calling for an international conference, since this would be a significant springboard for efforts to achieve a just peace. It is only natural that this call by Javier Perez de Cuellar should receive due attention, because the failure to respond favorably to this sincere call, or a lukewarm response to such a call will not serve the cause of peace in the region and the world. On the contrary, it will expose the cause of world and regional peace to grave dangers.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Agrees To Transfer 'Certain Powers'

BK2207140690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 22 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah said Sunday [22 July] he was willing to conditionally transfer "certain powers" of the Defense and Interior Ministries to a joint commission that would conduct national elections to end the Afghan war.

Government troops and resistance militants joining the commission could jointly ensure peace before and during U.N.-supervised national polls, Mr. Najibullah told reporters here.

Any other formula would result in a "bloodbath and anarchy," he said, and made clear that neither he nor his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan would step down before a nationwide ballot.

"The suggestion that we should step aside is like throwing government power in the air and asking anybody to catch whatever they can," Mr. Najibullah said.

"If that happens, there will be new problems, more difficulties and bigger hurdles, a bloodbath and anarchy in places like Kunar and Paktia provinces where we have withdrawn," he said.

The 43-year-old president, who appeared confident during the two-hour news conference, said his proposed joint commission should take decisions only through consensus, which would be binding on all members.

"The functions of the government's election authority would be transferred to this commission, which will conduct (the) poll, ensure resettlement of Afghan refugees and supervise a cease-fire during the run-up to the ballot," he said.

Mr. Najibullah did not say when he expected the polls to take place.

He said he was happy that the two superpowers had agreed on elections to end the country's dragging 12-year civil war, which has cost more than a million lives.

"Elections should not be for the sake of elections. It must be a means for peace, a lasting peace in Afghanistan," the president said.

Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union could encourage the peace process, he said, but added that it must ultimately be left to Afghans to work out a solution.

"The key to a political settlement in Afghanistan is ... dialogue and understanding through the joint commission," he added.

Hekmatyar Rejects Superpower Talks on Afghanistan

BK2107151090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jul 90 pp 1, 6

[Bureau report]

[Text] Peshawar, July 20—Chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has rejected the talks between the two superpowers over the Afghan issue.

In an interview here Mr. Hekmatyar said that none of the superpowers represented the Afghans and therefore their findings will not be binding on the Afghan people. He said that it is the right of the Afghans alone to decide their problems as an independent nation and no one else will be allowed to bargain over their heads. He said that Washington and Moscow can bridge the gap between each other on issues of mutual interest but they cannot decide the fate of the Afghan nation.

He showed pessimism over the superpowers' talks by saying that Mujahidin feared that the talks may not entangle the Afghans into another debacle.

He said that the superpowers are facing a challenge from the Islamic uprising all over the world and therefore they have been extending hand of friendship to each other to stop the advancement of Islamic revolution. In this regard they have been taking joint steps and unamimous decisions to shield their respective systems from the impact of Islamic revolution.

Engineer Hekmatyar said that the attitude of the West is very indifferent to the suppressed Muslims of Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, Afghanistan and the Muslim states of the Russian Republic. They are extremely melandcholy about the Muslim uprising and Islamic revival in these areas because they predict that Islam might ascend as a second power and pose a serious threat to them, he maintained.

He feared that the West will impose an atomic war either in the Middle East or provoke India to attack Pakistan or in the alternative India might destroy the atomic installations of Pakistan in collaboration with Israel.

When asked as to what will be his reaction if the two superpowers give a practical shape to the proposed election plan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said that in the event of approval of the proposed election plan the superpowers will appoint an election commission and include in it those Afghans living in Europe and America. This election commission will later recognize the Afghan Interim Government in Peshawar and thus a new understanding will be started from this end and later reign of power will be handed over to the said election commission. He further explained that this is an old plan of the West which has been accepted by the Soviet Union with very little modifications.

He said that the superpowers are facing a number of problems with regard to the Afghan issue at this stage because if they want to remove Najib, the present contol in Afghanistan will go out of their hands and if they cut supplies, Najib could not sustain. Similarly unilateral cessation of arms will harm the prestige of the party concerned at the international forum and other nations will lose confidence in them. He said that the two superpowers have neither a fit personality nor a party through which Najib could be replaced and a stable government formed in Afghanistan.

He further viewed that if the superpowers agree on the establishment of an interim government, stop arms supply or hold elections in Afghanistan, it will result in the victory of Mujahidin.

AIG Premier Calls Refugee Repatriation 'Cruel'

BK2307110090 Lahore THE NATION in English 23 Jul 90 p 8

[From the bureau correspondent]

[Text] Peshawar—Prof 'Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] has said that any solution to the Afghan problem imposed by any foreign power would not only be rejected but considered as cruel and illegal intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In a Press statement issued here on Sunday [22 July], he said: "We strongly believe that the Afghan crisis can only be solved by the Mujahidin.

He did not agree with the repatriation of Afghan refugees and said: "The repatriation programme of refugees, before complete liberation of Afghanistan and establishment of an Islamic Government would be considered a new conspiracy against the Afghan Muslims.

Prof. Sayyaf said that the repatriation programme would directly support the cruel and illegal regime of Najibullah.

Soviet POW's Freed by Opposition Forces

One Returned to Soviets

LD2107175490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Ilyas Muminovich Saatov, a Soviet soldier who was captured by Afghan extremists in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] was recently freed by the Armed Forces in Baghlan Province during a combat operation carried out in this province.

He was handed over this morning in a ceremony at the Storey Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Daud Kawian, deputy minister of foreign affairs, to (?Achewi Zakamatvavi) member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in the presence of Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, Ambassador and Extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul.

At this ceremony the deputy minister of foreign affairs said that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, utilizing all possibilities, will continue its all-round endeavors for the release of the remaining Soviet men who were taken captive by the Afghan opposition. (?Achewi Zakamatvavi), member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, then expressed his gratitude to esteemed Najibullah, president of the Afghanistan Government, and to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan from their efforts in freeing war captives of the Soviet Union from the Afghan opposition.

Najibullah Says Eight Rescued

BK2207150290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 22 (AFP)—President Najibullah said Sunday [22 July] that Afghan security forces have secured the release of eight Soviet soldiers held captive by resistance mujahidin guerrillas. Mr. Najibullah told reporters that the soldiers would be formally handed over to Soviet authorities here "within a day or two." He did not specify when, where or how the hostages were freed, but said seven Soviet soldiers had already been rescued from the mujahidin guerrillas since Moscow withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in February last year.

Official sources said an estimated 60 to 65 Soviet soldiers captured by different mujahidin factions were believed to be alive within the country, while the number officially reported missing in action is about 350.

"We are grateful to those soldiers who carried out their duties in Afghanistan. We are very much aware of the sorrow and agony of their relatives. We will spare no efforts to secure their release," Mr. Najibullah said. But he also reiterated that the deployment of Soviet troops in Afghanistan in December 1979 was a "mistake."

Soviet officials here said two soldiers had been saved from the mujahidin in Baghlan Province in the last week, adding that one was officially handed over to them Saturday [21 July]. The second was expected to be flown to the capital Kabul on Monday or Tuesday [23 or 24 July], they said.

India

Spokesman Welcomes U.S. Cambodia Policy

BK2107095890 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0908 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Statement by official spokesman on Secretary Baker's announcement on US derecognition of CGDK [Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea] in UN:

The Government of India welcomes the July 18 announcement by the US Secretary of State James A. Baker in Paris indicating US Government's intention to withdraw support to the occupation of the UN seat by Khmer Rouge-dominated CGDK and to open negotiations with Vietnam. This is a positive and significant step. We hope that it will contribute to early restoration of peace in Cambodia through immediate cessation of hostilities and holding of free and fair elections. India has always condemned the genocidal practices which characterised the tragic period 1975-79 when the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot killed over a million people and devastated the country. International revulsion of the Khmer Rouge has now become abundantly clear all over world.

We also have noted Secretary Baker's announcement that United States will enter into a dialogue with Vietnam on Cambodia. We hope that the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Cambodia will lead to tranquillity and normalisation in the entire region. Indo-China requires new and bold imaginative approach, where the main concern should be the economic development of peoples who have suffered immensely over the past half a century. Secretary Baker's statement is an important step towards such a goal.

Further on Premier's 20 Jul News Conference

BK2007163490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister today asserted that the National Front government has emerged stronger after the recent political crisis and there is no threat to its stability. Addressing a crowded press conference in the capital, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said the manner in which the crisis was resolved shows the political sagacity of the collective leadership.

Our correspondent reports that the two-and-a-half-hour long press conference was dominated by the recent crisis in the ruling party and the government. Mr. Singh said this is because the party is still in a formative stage. We have evolved a mechanism to deal effectively with any crisis and there would be greater and regular interaction between the government and the party, constituents of the National Front, and friendly parties.

The prime minister categorically denied that he had any prior knowledge of Mr. Chautala's comeback or about the resignation of Mr. B.D. Gupta. He also denied reports that there was any deal between him and the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, over the issue. [passage omitted]

Referring to Kashmir, the prime minister said conditions in the valley are not conducive to the holding of immediate elections. He said even the United States and many Arab countries have appreciated India's viewpoint on Kashmir and want that the issue be resolved between India and Pakistan bilaterally under the Simla Agreement.

On Punjab, he said the government has been able to restore confidence among the people and remove suspicion from the minds of the majority community there. He said secessionists and those having links abroad will be dealt with firmly.

Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that the Assam government has been asked to take strong measures to curb the activities of the United Liberation Front of Assam. He said that the bill to confer statehood to Delhi will be passed in the monsoon session of Parliament.

Turning to economic issues, Mr. Singh said that the government will come out with a definite list of industries, where foreign investment will be allowed. He made it clear that such investment is within the parameters of the eighth plan and in areas where there is a need for high technology and also to boost exports.

About the price situation, he said several steps have been taken to curtail expenditure and check the prices of essential items like sugar and cement. In reply to a question, the prime minister said that for the first time the government is bringing a resolution on agricultural policy. Mr. V.P. Singh said that there is no difference of opinion within the government in implementing land reforms, to which it is wholly committed.

Referring to the Bofors case, the prime minister said investigations are going on properly and some technical flaws are being sorted out.

Turning to international relations, he welcomed the foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan but cautioned that nothing spectacular was expected in the preliminary round and the process will continue.

On Sri Lanka, he said the present situation in the island is causing concern and India is taking diplomatic initiatives to solve the problem of Sri Lankan Tamils. He clarified that there was no difference in perception between the center and the Tamil Nadu government over the ethnic situation in the island-nation. Mr. V.P. Singh said that there has been improvement in relations with our neighbors such as Nepal, Bangladesh, and China.

Congress-I Demands Singh Resignation Over Ruling

BK2107031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Congress-I has demanded the resignation of the prime minister following the judgment in a British court allowing damages to Mr. Ajitab Bachan. A London court directed a Swedish newspaper to pay damages to Mr. Bachan for its story connecting him to the Bofors scandal. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that the judgment has vindicated the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Bofors issue.

Mr. M.J. Akbar of the party said the prime minister should resign since he has no explanation to offer in this regard.

In a statement, the former union minister, Mr. Chidambaram, also said the judgment is an indictment on the Indian Government and its investigating agencies.

Meanwhile, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has denied the allegation that it had planted the information concerning Mr. Ajitab Bachan in the Bofors deal in a Swedish newspaper.

Kashmir Issue on Singh-Gorbachev Summit Agenda

BK2007160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The security environment in the Indian subcontinent and Pakistan's involvement in aiding and abetting secessionists and subversive elements in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to figure during talks between the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, in Moscow next week. Mr. Singh is leaving for the Soviet Union on Monday [23 July] on a four-day visit.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the prime minister's visit will reinforce the desire and commitment of the National Front government to further Indo-Soviet relations on which there is national consensus. The spokesman said an important item on the agenda will be the issue of rupee-ruble parity as the entire gamut of Indo-Soviet bilateral trade is linked to the rupee payment arrangement.

Statement, Remarks on Singh USSR Visit Cited

BK2107163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has expressed the confidence that the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, will be an important landmark in the development of Indo-Soviet relations. In a statement in Moscow on the eve of Mr. Singh's official visit beginning on Monday [23 July], Moscow said the Soviet people cordially welcome Mr. Singh and hope that the visit will make a tangible contribution to the promotion of world peace and security. The statement also hailed the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and expressed the confidence that his government will continue the peaceful foreign policy and pursue friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that Indo-Soviet ties are deep-rooted and stability is their all-important element. He said the historic tradition of durable friendly links, devoid of transient considerations, is inherent in Indo-Soviet relations. In an interview to Soviet journalists, the prime minister said his visit would cement the friendship between the two countries at political level and give an impetus to cooperation in a host of areas. Mr. V.P. Singh is leaving for the Soviet Union on the 23d of this month. Expressing confidence that deep changes in the world would open new opportunities, ways and forms for interaction between India and the Soviet Union. [sentence as heard]

Gujral Addresses Amritsar News Conference

BK2207090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has reiterated the government's commitment of holding assembly elections in Punjab before the expiry of president's rule in November. Addressing a news conference in Amritsar yesterday, he said the government is committed to bringing back to the state a duly elected government. He said in order to ensure the return of the democratic process in the state, the government is not only according priority to law and order but is also trying to reactivate the political process. He said an all out effort is being made to ensure the cooperation of the people at the grass-root level in developmental activities. Mr. Gujral said the first achievement of the National Front government had been the demolition of a wall built by the previous government between the Sikhs and the rest of the country and creating a place of honor and dignity for the community.

Referring to the training of terrorists and subversives of Punjab and Kashmir by Pakistan, the external affairs minister said the majority of countries have acknowledged the negative role of Islamabad aimed at destabilizing India. He said the world opinion has alienated Pakistan and India's stand has been understood and appreciated at the international level.

Tamil Nadu Chief Sends Singh Letter on Sri Lanka

BK2207130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, has urged the prime minister to immediately persuade the Sri Lankan Government to set up refugee camps in northern Sri Lanka to arrest further inflow of Tamil refugees to India. In a letter, addressed to Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Karunanidhi has said that these camps should be organized with the assistance of the UN. He said on an average two to four thousand refugees are arriving every day.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, is visiting Madras tomorrow. He will hold discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi. He will also meet leaders of various political parties to ascertain their views on the Sri Lankan issue.

BJP Opens Three-Day Executive Session 21 Jul

Advises Janata Dal To Remedy Affairs

BK2107094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that it is imperative that the Janata Dal takes immediate steps to remedy its affairs in the interests of the nation. Inaugurating the three-day session of the party's national executive in Madras today, he said that Chautala episode has gravely impaired the credibility of the National Front government and has heightened the sense of uncertainty about its future. Mr. Advani wanted the government to show its ability in delivering good and to solve serious problems like terrorism, secessionism, communalism, inflation and unemployment confronting the country at present.

Withdraws Support in Uttar Pradesh

BK2007110090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has withdrawn support to the Mulayam Singh Yadev government in Uttar Pradesh and demanded that the chief minister prove his majority on the floor of the house. Speaking to newsmen in Bareilly, the BJP legislature party leader, Mr. Kalyan Singh, said that his party had never offered unconditional support to Mr. Yadev. Mr. Kalyan Singh said the constitutional crisis prevailed in the state and the chief minister has no right to continue in power any more.

Criticizes Center; Expects Mid-Term Poll

BK2207074990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has criticized the center for its failure to control prices of essential commodities. Addressing a public meeting in Madras yesterday, Mr. Vajpayee said that the center has also not been able to tackle the problems of Punjab and Kashmir. He reiterated that Kashmir is an integral part of India and will not be allowed to break away.

Referring to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh's, assertion that the Janata Dal had emerged stronger after the recent crisis, Mr. Vajpayee said he hoped that Mr. Singh will not invite more trouble.

On Sri Lanka, Mr. Vajpayee appealed to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to give up arms and come to the negotiating table to solve the ethnic problem. He said Sri Lankan Tamils should consolidate their achievements by giving up violence. Mr. Vajpayee also appealed to the Tamil Nadu government not to permit any terrorist or armed group to carry out its activities in the state.

Earlier, inaugurating the three-day national executive of the party, Mr. Advani asked the party to prepare a contingency plan for a mid-term poll in view of what he called recurring crisis faced by the National Front Government. He said the recent developments have deepened the people's doubt about the government's capability to last its full term. Mr. Advani, however, said on its part the BJP would like this government to run its full term.

Reacting to Mr. Advani's statement, the union law and justice minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, ruled out a mid-term poll to the Lok Sabha. Talking to newsmen in Nagpur yesterday, he said the BJP chief must have made the statement as a (?caution) against the political developments within the Janata Dal.

Passes Resolution on Sri Lanka, Fiji

BK2207091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded that an all-party parliamentary delegation from India be sent to Sri Lanka for an on-the-spot study of the situation there. It also demanded immediate cessation of hostilities between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and a round-table conference organized by the Sri Lankan Government to work out a solution to the ethnic problem in the island.

In a resolution adopted at the party's national executive in Madras today, it said the Sri Lankan Armed Forces had resorted to aerial bombing of civilian targets, which was not normally done even in open war, indicating how critical the situation in Sri Lanka has become.

The party expressed concern over the new draft constitution of Fiji, which it says, when promulgated, will affect the people of Indian origin. The party urged the government to take up the matter in the international forum.

It urged the government to create a special cell in the ministry of external affairs to look after the problems of the people of Indian origin settled abroad.

Says Sri Lankan Problem 'Internal'

BK2207133690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that the Sri Lankan problem is an internal affair of that country and India is concerned only with the influx of refugee and the safety of civilian Tamils. Addressing a press conference in Madras this afternoon, he said the center should bring diplomatic pressure to solve this problem.

Mr. Vajpayee told newsmen that the center is sincerely trying to solve the Punjab and Kashmir problems.

Answering a question, he said the government is keen and firm on not to allow Tamil Nadu to become a launching pad for armed activities. To another question, Mr. Vajpayee said the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the BJP have now better understanding.

Libyan Envoy Meets Singh, Discusses Kashmir

BK2107164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Libya has called upon India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally and in a peaceful manner. Agency reports say that the prime minister today received a message to this effect from the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, through his personal envoy, Dr. (Muhammad Sharif). Dr. (Sharif) later said that the prime minister explained to him India's position on the matter. He said his discussions in New Delhi would help Libya clarify anything concerning Kashmir that may come up at the forthcoming foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization.

JANA Reports Meeting

LD2207181590 Tripoli JANA in English 1701 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser 22 [22 July] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY The Indian Prime Minister Vishwanat Paranab Singh yesterday received the secretary of the International Islamic Call Society, as the personal envoy of the leader of the revolution to the Indian prime minister. The envoy of the leader of the revolution delivered a letter from the leader to the Indian Prime Minister regarding the mediation being conducted by great Jamahiriyah towards finding a peaceful solution to the problem of Kashmir between Indian and Pakistan.

The prime minister expressed, during the meeting, his deep thanks and respect for the leader of the revolution for his sincere and continuous efforts towards finding solutions to all problems in the world and his constant endeavours for the maintenance of peace and security the world over. The prime minister requested the envoy to convey his greetings to the leader of the revolution and lauded the existing relations between the two friendly countries which he described as based on fruitful cooperation and mutual respect.

The secretary of the International Islamic Call Society referred to the deep relations linking Great Jamahiriyah and India on the basis of mutual respect and constructive cooperation. He stressed, during a press conference before leaving India, the desire of the great al-Fatih revolution and its leader to use peaceful means to settle the problems faced by the Third World countries including the existing dispute between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

He said "considering the spirit of the existing cooperation between the two countries and the belief in the need to settle problems through peaceful means, the leader of the revolution charged me with the task of carrying a letter to the Indian prime minister within the framework of efforts and good offices being undertaken by Great Jamahiriyah to solve the problem of Kashmir on the basis of the pioneering role assumed by the Universal al-Fatih revolution and its universal leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi towards all issues."

He pointed out that "there is a technical delegation from Great Jamahiriyah who will soon visit India to develop and enhance the prospects of existing cooperation in all spheres between the two friendly countries."

In an answer to questions by journalists, the envoy of the leader of the revolution pointed out that the leader stressed to the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, during her recent visit to Great Jamahiriyah, the need for the use of peaceful means to finding a solution to the Kashmir issue. He told journalists that the leader of the revolution is personally preoccupied with this issue.... he added that he will carry a similar letter to the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Uttar Pradesh Farmer Union Leader Released

BK2107130390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Kisan [Indian farmers] Union [BKU] leader, Mr. Mahendra Singh Tikait, has been released from the Fatehgarh jail in Uttar Pradesh. The chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, announced this in the state council today. Later, talking to newsmen in Lucknow, Mr. Yadav said orders have also been issued for the release of all the other BKU activists arrested during the Jail Bharo [fill the jail] agitation. He said withdrawal of cases of the BKU workers will also be considered. However, the chief minister asserted that the state government will not abolish the reservation policy meant for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.

Legislators Ask for Removal of Uttar Pradesh Chief

BK2207081190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Sixty-one Janata Dal legislators from Uttar Pradesh have asked the party high command to remove Mr. Mulayem Singh Yadev from the chief ministership of the state. According to an agency report, in a memorandum to the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, the legislators said the state government has given a blow to the freedom of movement and speech in dealing with the farmers agitation. The legislators threatened to resign if their demand is not accepted.

Kidnappers Demand Release of ULFA 'Activists'

BK2007163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, kidnappers of the IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] General Manager, Mr. H.K.L. Das, his son, and the driver have demanded the release of three ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists under detention on criminal charges within six days in return for the release of the hostages.

In a statement in Guwahati today, the ULFA threatened that Mr. Das and his son will be killed if their demand is not met.

Congress-I Worker Among Dead

BK2307125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, various political parties have expressed serious concern on the kidnapping and subsequent threat to kill the general manager of Guwahati Oil Refinery, Mr. H.K.L. Das, his son and the driver. The all-party meeting convened by the state government in Guwahati today reviewed the situation arising out of the abduction by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. The meeting unanimously appealed to the abductors to release them immediately. In another resolution, the meeting requested the state government to take adequate political and administrative measures to secure the release of the victims.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot dead three persons, including Mr. Rohiteshwar Saikia, a prominent Congress-I worker and the younger brother of the former chief minister and the APCC-I [Assam Pradesh, State, Congress Committee-I] president, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, near Sibsagar town this morning.

Six Deaths, 10 Bomb Blasts Reported in Kashmir

BK2107162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, six persons, including two terrorists, were killed since last night in separate incidents. Security forces have also recovered some quantity of arms and ammunition from the terrorists. In Kathua District, two terrorists, who tried to cross over from Pakistan, were killed in an encounter with security forces.

In Srinagar, terrorists blasted bombs at 10 places and killed four persons. Of them, three were killed in the downtown area of the city this morning in cross-firing between the terrorists and the security forces. In another incident, terrorists shot dead one person in Rainawari last night. The bomb blasts took place at several places.

In Jammu, the three-hour curfew relaxation period passed off peacefully today. There was normal traffic and shops were open during this period. As reported earlier, curfew was imposed in Jammu yesterday morning following incidents of bomb blast and firing by terrorists. Curfew was relaxed for three hours from 1300 this afternoon.

Iran

Beirut Embassy Suggests Mediation With Syria

LD2107112590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Yesterday the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut announced that the Islamic Republic is still prepared to solve the differences between the forces of the Amal and the revolutionary Hizballah movement through collaboration with Syrian brothers. The Iranian Embassy emphasized that the solution of this issue should be based on the peace agreement that was signed between the two Muslim groups last year under the supervision of Syria and Iran.

Press Comments on Iraq-UAE Oil Pricing Dispute

LD2207113290 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Two English language dailies Sunday commented on violation of OPEC quotas by two members of the Organisation of Petroluem Exporting Countries, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

'TEHRAN TIMES' in editorial supported Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's decision to take "a practical step" to stop the two OPEC members from "producing over and beyond their assigned OPEC quotas." It added, "violation of quotas had indeed hurt OPEC and consequently all the members as it has pulled down the oil price substantially in recent months." It stressed that practical "means of punishment against quota violators seems a necessity."

Another English language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' pointed to Iraq's verbal attacks against Kuwait and the UAE and noted, "the Iraqi government is voicing sentiments of all other OPEC member states." In its editorial today, the daily wrote, "Kuwait and the UAE have made so many enemies through their past irrational behavior that they should expect little or no sympathy from other producers in the upcoming ministerial session in Geneva." It stressed that Kuwait and the UAE should keep in mind that peace and security in the Persian Gulf is a collective affair and that they would be depriving themselves of these gifts by undermining oil market stability and OPEC unity.

"They should not expect to enjoy the fruits of peace and security if they keep trying to cut 'the means of living' for other countries in the region," the article stressed.

Further Press Commentary

NC2207120390 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 22 (AFP)—The pro-government Tehran Times newspaper Sunday came to the defense of Iran's former enemy Kuwait, warning that Baghdad's "bullying" of the Gulf emirate masked territorial ambitions in the region. But while supporting Kuwait in its border dispute with Baghdad, the daily, considered a mouthpiece for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, backed Iraq in denouncing the oil policies of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

It criticised Baghdad for charging that Kuwait, which has a longstanding border dispute with Iraq, encroached on Iraqi territory and stole 2.4 billion dollars of oil from a field near an unmarked part of their frontier. This attack, Tehran Times said, "does not seem logical or truthful. The claim has its roots in Iraq's long-held territorial ambitions against Kuwait as well as in Baghdad's leaders' military and political aspirations."

"Iran despises the Iraqi territorial ambitions against Kuwait. Regardless of all the hostile moves by Kuwait during the war, Iran respects Kuwaiti territorial integrity," the English-language newspaper said.

"All nations should try to settle their problems only at the negotiating table and never should they speak from the barrel of a gun. Aggression and bullying have no place in our age," the paper added.

Iran's backing of Kuwait, which aided Iraq in the Gulf war, comes as their ties continue to improve after a

U.N.-sponsored cease-fire in August 1988. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati made his first visit to Kuwait last month. But Iran and Iraq have also apparently improved relations in recent months, citing progress in their efforts to reach a final settlement in the Gulf war.

Tehran Times said Iraq had shown "ingratitude" for Kuwait's war assistance. Baghdad last week accused Kuwait of "military aggression" against Iraq for allegedly setting up military posts and oil fields on Iraqi territory and, along with the UAE, "deliberately" flooding the oil market. Kuwait and the UAE denied the charges, and Kuwait in turn accused Iraq of pumping oil from Kuwaiti wells.

The dispute has prompted an intense Arab diplomatic effort to defuse tension. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz began talks in Cairo Sunday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Tehran Times said "Iran can to some extent support the Iraqi stance" against Kuwait and the UAE for their excess oil production, as "Tehran finds it a fairly good idea to punish those who violate OPEC quotas."

Another Iranian newspaper, Kayhan International, which is close to hardliners here, said Baghdad was "voicing sentiments of all other OPEC member-states" in denouncing Kuwait and the UAE for over-producing.

"Kuwait and the UAE have made so many enemies through their past irrational behavior that they should expect little or no sympathy from other producers" at the OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva Wednesday, the paper added.

The English-language daily, a previous strong critic of Iraq, said Kuwait and the UAE should "not expect to enjoy the fruits of peace and security if they keep trying to cut the means of living for other countries in the region."

Both Iran and Iraq, dependent on strong oil prices for their post-war reconstruction, have denounced over-production within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, although Baghdad's tone has been sharper. Earlier this month, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said that despite Tehran's political differences with Baghdad, "concerning oil policies, our views conform with those of Iraq."

Effect of Iran-Iraq Talks on Oil Prices Discussed

NC2207115290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Jul 90 p 4

[Economic commentary by Dr. 'Ali Shams Ardakani, deputy minister for economic and commercial Affairs in the Ministry of Mines and Metals: "Iran-Iraq Talks and the Salvaging of Oil Prices"]

[Text] It appears that Saddam Husayn's government has become enmeshed in regional policies as well as economic policies and that in order to save its fragile equilibrium from being shattered it needs the tranquility of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its propagandistic imbroglio with the West, its inability to repay its heavy international debts, the machinations of Israel and reactionaries in the region, the alienation of Saddam and his cohorts from the Iraqi nation, and the estrangement of Ba'athist ideology—which totally lacks substance—from Islamic culture of the region enhance the need for greater coordination in the field of oil for greater income. These points also enhance the need for cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in order for Iraq to extricate itself from straits stemming from war and economic problems due to an unproductive economic policy.

The implementation of the Five-Year Plan for economic development and its concomitant economic requirements first and foremost demand peaceful neighbors and regional coordination in order to capitalize on oil income. The Islamic Republic of Iran's desire for peaceful relations with Iraq and other neighbors is based on its beliefs and Constitution. Saddam seems to have based his desire for peace and an end to conflict on two considerations:

First, concerning present policy, the wishes of the two countries to increase oil prices seem to be the only tangible common denominator. This increase in income can only be possible with the salvaging of oil prices. This should be stated in various contexts, in the event of the talks materializing, and should serve as an appropriate test for gauging the real intentions of Iraq and its ability to cooperate with Iran as regards regional policies.

Second, an increase in the demand for oil in the international oil market can render Iran-Iraq cooperation practical in salvaging oil prices. Unfortunately, this increase in demand has been jeopardized by most of the OPEC members, in particular by those who do not need their income boosted as much as the others. At the top of this list are Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

In view of the fact that these countries devoted part of their oil incomes to fanning the flames of the conflict during the war, it should be brought home to them that their oil policies are not to be formulated on the basis of harming the economic interests of Iran and Iraq.

Success in the government's economic policies, production as well as hope, is hidden in this point. Therefore the implementation of this premise is the basic factor in internal and foreign policy. The brunt of this task falls upon the shoulders of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which is duty bound to protect the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests in the foreign sphere.

There is not much time until the next OPEC session. During this period, coordination in salvaging oil prices should take priority in foreign policy, especially the regional policies of the two countries. This is so that the petroleum ministers of the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region can attend the session with clear-cut instructions from their respective governments; they should know that if this is not so, woe betide!

Fortunately, the Iraqi oil minister recently announced that the price of oil should be fixed at $25 per barrel. This remark should be made the basis for cooperation in salvaging oil prices so that by the end of 1993 when the world oil market will enter a new phase as a "selling market" it might be possible to retrieve some of the income lost since 1986.

Paper on Need for Closer Iranian-Kuwaiti Relations

NC2107120290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly Edition in English 10 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Warm Irano-Kuwaiti Relations Serve the Region's Interests"]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is now in Kuwait on an invitation from his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah. Before his departure from Tehran Velayati told reporters his talks in Kuwait would focus on bilateral ties, Islamic Republic's cooperation with Persian Gulf littoral states and Irano-Kuwaiti cooperation in international bodies such as the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

From a historical perspective there has always been heavy social traffic going on between the two countries. Iranians living in the country's southern shores have been visiting Kuwait for trade and commercial purposes for a long time now.

When Kuwait gained independence in 1961 Iran was among the first countries to recognize the new Emirate. The two countries opened their embassies in one another's capitals the same year and engaged in a lot of trade in the years that followed.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 the first high level contact between the two nations came when the then Kuwaiti foreign minister Shaykh al-Jabir Al Sabah visited Tehran to discuss the oil spill in the Persian Gulf with Iranian officials.

The two sides at the time expressed their interest in improving ties.

But later due to Kuwait's stance toward the Iraqi imposed war on iran the relations between the two nations soured.

Another time for a mild rapproachement came when Iran accepted the United Nation's Peace Resolution 598. At present the two countries maintain ties at ambassadorial level.

The warm Irano-Kuwaiti relations however, given the OPEC backdrop, can significantly boost strategic interests of the OPEC members including the two countries.

Besides both capitals can benefit from expanded trade relations in the light of common cultural bonds and the fact that the Iranian-born residents of Kuwait compose a sizeable community.

From another aspect the expansion of ties between these two neighboring nations can improve the regional security situation, contribute to the protection of interests of the Persian Gulf nations at large and reduce tensions at regional level.

The two countries' cooperation in international forums and bodies can also enhance the position of Islamic nations in such organizations.

After all, in view of global developments, the European unity process and the turnabout in East-West relations, expansion of ties between Muslim countries, especially in this highly sensitive part of the world, becomes a must.

Cooperation, coordination and solidarity among regional countries can definitely enhance the position of Muslim nations vis-a-vis an united Europe and this ever-changing world.

Musavi-Ardebili Sermon on Mecca 'Massacre'

LD2007150690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1205 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon given by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 20 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] An issue I wish to mention is the issue of the Mina slaughter. This was a very heart-rending matter. This issue, which followed the previous massacre, first of all revealed the nature of the Al Sa'ud—not to us because we knew it anyway—but to the world; and everyone realized that the murderer of the two holy mosques has taken the title of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

At present, there is no security in the two holy sanctuaries. God's safe sanctuary has become a killing ground. Now it is the certain duty of the world's Muslims not to remain silent. What happened is the result of indifference of the Muslim rulers in the wake of the martyrdom of the Iranian pilgrims. It was necessary for them to understand on that day that after Iran's turn, it would then be the turn of other countries. A wolf, a man-eater, and a blood-sucker does not differentiate between Iran and other places. He will treat anyone he faces in the same way. The issue of the sanctuary's security goes back to the pre-Islamic era. There have always been attempts to keep that place secure from violations and even natural disasters. They used to appoint certain teams to look after the pilgrims, to provide them with water and daily requirements. However, today the place has become a killing ground.

Should Muslims remain indifferent observers, and should they content themselves by just saying: I am not convinced, and I condemn you, because you are incompetent? Is this enough? If essential work is supposed to be done—when? Is not the time now? Why should Mecca and al-Madinah be left in the hands of an unbelieving and unfaithful gang from the low-serving ranks? And is it right that no Muslim is allowed to perform his religious rituals even in the days when they are not slaughtered?

No woman is allowed to go to the [saints'] cemetery to pray because the Wahhabi mullahs consider it unlawful for women to go to a cemetery. No Muslim is permitted to ask for mercy near the graves of the Prophet and God's saints, because the Wahhabis believe that pleading for mercy is a sin. No one is permitted to stand near the Prophet's grave to say: peace be upon you. The Wahhabi mullahs consider it unlawful to say this to the dead. The problem is not only the fact that the sanctuary has become a killing ground. This was the end of the line. Why should it be like this?

Unfortunately, there is no one to question. [sentence as heard] When they martyred the Iranians, the others either did not join voices with us, or if they did, it was very low-key. But today, when others have been killed, we are not saying: We are not saying anything because you said nothing on that day. It is not like that. We feel duty bound by the Shari'a. All Muslims are duty bound to restore the lost security of God's sanctuaries. [shouts of "God is great"]

This can not be achieved unless we sever the hands of the vicious and canniblistic house of Sa'ud [Saudi Arabia] from the two sancturies, which legitimately belong to all Muslims throughout the world.

Another issue concerns the current state of affairs in Lebanon, an issue which brings tears to the eyes of every devout Muslim. Such fratricide benefits no one. If they [as heard] call themselves revolutionary, if they call themselves Muslims, if they act on the path of salvation—brothers! If you all join forces, pointing your rifles at the enemy, then there may be hope that—God willing—after a while, you will achieve some victories. [passage omitted] Is it not so that in the cases of jihad and the revolution, the issue of religious jurisprudence should be the first to be considered? Is the killing of a Muslim by another Muslim—their mutual debilitation, and the victory of the infidel over the protagonists—considered an Islamic obligation? Is it a revolutionary obligation? How do you assess that? This can not be endorsed in any way.

On the other hand, there are others who enter the arena, fanning the flame. The Palestinians are fighting Israel, but they come and wreak havoc in Lebanon; the 'Arafatis, those who follow 'Arafat. What do 'Arafat and those like him gain from the Shi'a fratricide? This war is an illegitimate war. This war is an unlawful war, and can not be measured by any criteria. [passage omitted] They are helping the enemy—their common enemy. They should lay down their arms as soon as possible. What are the problems that they can not resolve among themselves? Is it anything other than the fact that the enemy has embarked upon the creation of such scenes?

As for the 162 Americans who condemned us in their Congress, they should know that we are truly delighted. I should point out that if they stop condemning us, then we must begin to doubt our behavior. We would ask: Why is it that the Americans have left us alone? On the day they wage an attack against us we will say to ourselves: Praise be to God that the arrogance still attacks us. [crowd chants in support: "Death to America"] Not only do we not fear such exchanges of letters and such condemnations, but we do not become upset. We delight in their abuse, we truly delight in it. In other words, it boosts our self-confidence, the fact that—praise be to God—they are still on one side of the stream, and we on the other. We will beat the hell out of them [Pedarashan ra dar mi avarim]. We still think this way. God is a witness, that on the day when they announced they wanted to help our quake victims, I was not happy. It means that we are willing—God forbid—that five, 10, 100 of our quake victims be killed, rather than the global arrogance stretch out its hand in friendship toward us. [crowd chants in support: "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "death to America," "death to England," "death to Israel," "death to mojahedin"] [passage omitted]

Tehran Reports Sermon

LD2007121190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] On the threshold of the month of Muharram [first month of Arabic lunar calendar], the month of the victory of blood over sword, our Mulsim compatriots throughout the country today held the religious-political rites of the Friday prayers. The people of Tehran arrived at Tehran University and the adjacent streets to attend Friday prayers under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

In his second sermon, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the importance of helping compatriots who have been hit by the earthquakes, and said: In the wake of the earthquake catastrophe in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, the exalted leader travelled to the stricken areas to inspect closely the problems of the survivors of the tragedy. The president of the republic, cabinet ministers, and Majles representatives went to the quake-striken areas and gave priority to helping the quake victims among our compatriots.

In the meantime, the help provided by the various strata of the people, relief forces, and responsible institutions - who began to help the survivors of the quake and continue to do so—merits our gratitude and appreciation. Yet, with regard to the approaching cold season in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, the issue of housing the quake victims must be given top priority. It is imperative that our compatriots, relief forces, and responsible authorities continue the work on relief operation in wider dimensions. Relief must continue until the survivors of the tragedy are fully catered for by the relief services and when they are housed in suitable quarters.

Referring to the tragedy of the slaughter of the pilgrims to the sacred sanctuary in the house of God in the Mina Tunnel, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: The slaughter of the pilgrims of the house of God in the Mina Tunnel has revealed the nature of the regime of the house of Sa'ud [Saudi Arabia] to the world. Indeed, following the slaughter of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of god in the tragedy of the bloody Friday in the honorable Mecca [1987], the world's Muslims should have foreseen that the next day the turn of pilgrims from other countries to be slaughtered would have arrived. The fact that such a tragedy was repeated is the result of indifference by the rulers of the world of Islam toward the slaughter of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God in the bloody Friday tragedy in Mecca.

Asserting that the Saudi regime had turned the secure sanctuary of God into a slaughter house for pilgrims, he stressed: It is the duty of the world's Muslims not to keep silent against these crimes. It is the religious duty of every Muslim to restore the lost security of the honorable sanctuaries. That can only be possible if the hand of the Saudi regime is cut off from the two sanctuaries.

Referring to the clashes between the Revolutionary Movement of Lebanese Hezbollah and the Amal Movement, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: This fighting is sinful and illegitimate; it cannot be in accord with any norm. Such fratricide will benefit only the common enemy of Muslims. Its result will simply allow the enemies of Islam to dominate the Muslims of Lebanon. Therefore, the parties to these clashes must speedily end such fighting and turn their weapons against the enemy.

With reference to the positions adopted by 162 members of the U.S. Congress against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and their support for the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], Tehran's acting Friday prayer leader said: Once they stop condemning us, then we will doubt the validity of our work. We are delighted to be thus condemned; we thank God that we still continue to be targets of attacks by the global arrogance.

In conclusion of his second sermon, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili referred to the forthcoming mourning period for His Holiness Aba 'Abdullah ibn Husayn [third immaculate imam of the Shi'as], and said: We are followers of the path and school of the lord of the martyrs and the sovereign of the liberated of the world, His Holiness Husayn Ibn 'Ali—peace be upon him. We beseech God to give us the honor of participating in his mourning ceremonies.

Former President Hits Hashemi-Rafsanjani Record

PM2007151790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 5

[Interview with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The Iraqi and Iranian sides talk of tangible progress in the direct negotiations between them. Are you optimistic about the results of that dialogue?

[Bani-Sadr] I am not as optimistic as as Mr. Saddam and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. With regard to this subject there are two views: The first says that both countries need peace in order to be able to build what the war has destroyed. This view applies more to Iran. With regard to Iraq, it needs to enhance its status among the other Arab states. And to achieve this, any Iranian threat to Iraq must be eliminated.

I personally support the other view, which says that Hashemi-Rafsanjani needs huge financial aid to realize the projects which Iran needs following the war. But in order to obtain money and aid, Hashemi-Rafsanjani must remove internal barriers, and that is the essential point.

How can he achieve peace with Iraq before removing the internal barriers? The internal barriers are, for example, the liberation of the Armed Forces, especially the Revolutionary Guards, who are still deployed on the fronts. And since the Revolutionary Guards are from the Iranian Left, it will appear as if Hashemi-Rafsanjani is liberating his internal enemies and obstructing his government's work inside the country.

This is why I am convinced that Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not want a true peace. He wants to seize the opportunity to achieve domestic objectives. According to this view, Hashemi-Rafsanjani knows well that the Americans and the Soviets have employed their capabilities for the sake of achieving this state of no war, no peace. Thus, his move toward peace will be like blackmailing those countries to make new gains.

Besides, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's preoccupation with peace negotiations with Iraq pacifies opposition movements at home and stops them from moving against him. Actually Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now working to realize a state of expectation that allows him to achieve some of his objectives internally. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is development in Iran's relations with some Arabs. How do you view that development?

[Bani-Sadr] I am not a politician or a diplomat in order to give you diplomatic answers.

To extricate itself from isolation, the Iranian regime has started to make contacts with the Arab Gulf states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I know there are Iranian contacts with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, despite what the Iranian government announces openly.

The "Irangate" regime is domestically weak and is trying to find solutions abroad. And Hashemi-Rafsanjani has still not succeeded in achieving anything. He has tried with the West and with the Americans, and here he is trying with the Arabs.

I do not believe that he will succeed, because the contradictions inside Iran will not allow that. And let us recall the hostage issue in Lebanon and the Iranian contradiction about it.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani urgently needs to normalize relations with the outside world. And this is not because he is moderate, as the West says, because he is worse than anyone. He has committed many crimes and been involved in corruption. He is 1,000 times more corrupt than Mohtashemi. Mohtashemi does not have billions like Hashemi-Rafsanjani in international stock exchanges. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It has been reported that mediation is being conducted for the sake of your return to Iran. Will you return?

[Bani-Sadr] I read that the Americans have started a mediation for the sake of former Iranian President Bani-Sadr's return to Iran in a bid on their part to display their good intentions. And I ask: Toward whom do the Americans want to display their good intentions? Toward me, toward the Iranian government, or toward both? Talking about good intentions means that the idea of the coup against me was theirs. I say that Iran has witnessed recently three officials with whom the Americans had exciting relationships: the Shah, Khomeyni, and me. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Says Saudis 'Against' the Koran

LD2207113890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Students taking part in the finals of the eighth nationwide competition for memorizing and reciting the Koran, students and teachers from the Ahvaz Fatima al-Zahra teachers' training center, sisters and pupils from Tehran Province Literacy Campaign, and various strata of the public met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Jamaran Hoseyniyeh this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting, referring to the importance of Koranic teachings in various areas, Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: You all know that arrogance regards the Koran with anger and spite today. For, if it [Koran's teachings] were implemented, the Muslims would be rid of all oppressors and bullyboys. [passage omitted]

He then described the reasons for the massacre at Mina tunnel of pilgrims to the holy house of God [Mecca]. He stressed: If the Saudi regime reacts out of fear toward the God is great slogan of the pilgrims and kills or injures nearly 4,000 of them it is because it has taken a stand against the Koran. The Saudi regime, which pretends to be a propagator of Islam and the Koran, is treating the Koran and its teachings the way Mu'awiyah ['Umayyad Caliph in early days of Islam] did.

Commentary Views Turkey's Economic Situation

NC2007133090 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Turkish Central Bank disclosed last week that, compared with the same period in 1989, from January to June 1990 the amount of money in circulation increased by 57 percent to total more than 13 trillion Turkish lira. Compared with the same period in 1988, the amount of money in circulation in Turkey increased by 36 percent from January to June 1989.

In general, the imbalance between the budget revenues and spending is regarded as the most basic factor for the gradual increase in circulation of money in Turkey. It is common knowledge that this imbalance has caused a significant budget deficit. Turkey's budget deficit totaled about $500 million from January to March. This figure is 205 percent more than the figure established during the same period in 1989.

This gigantic budget deficit is forcing the government to circulate new money every year. This is increasing the volume of money in circulation. It seems unlikely that the Turkish Government will succeed in placing under control the increasing volume of money in circulation, and this is pushing the inflation in that country to higher levels within a short period of time. The first reason for this is the broad and intricate structure of the state mechanism in Turkey. A significant part of the budget allocation is channeled to that sector every year for this reason. For example, the wages of state employees totaled 48.7 percent of the budget revenues from January to March 1990. A serious policy has not been drawn up to curb state spending in Turkey so far.

Regardless of all this, the wages of state employees have recently been increased. Nevertheless, regardless of this increase, the people are well aware of the chances they have to deal with the economic problems in the country.

Meanwhile, regardless of the large amount of money in circulation in Turkey, the Turkish banks do not seem to have changed the policy they maintain on the question of the credits that are made available to the people. On the other hand, Turkey's foreign debts constitute a significant obstacle for removing the budget deficit of that country. Turkey's foreign debts make up as much as 70 percent of that country's national income. In view of this, the Turkish Government is compelled to allocate a significant portion of the country's foreign currency revenues for the payment of Turkey's debts, including interest, every year.

Instead of decreasing, Turkey's debts are gradually increasing. For example, compared with the same period last year, the funds allocated for the payment of foreign debts increased by 43 percent from January to March 1990. This state of affairs has had negative effects on the foreign currency revenues.

It seems that curbing the budget deficit in Turkey will be impossible under the present conditions. In view of the points we have mentioned, we can predict that the volume of money in circulation will continue to increase in Turkey until the end of 1990.

Velayati Addresses Envoys on Revolution

LD2207175790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran gathered at the pure shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and reaffirmed their allegiance to the lofty goals of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and the leadership of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution.

During the ceremonies, also attended by the foreign minister and his deputies, Mr. Velayati noted the special attention paid to the ministry by the imam of the nation adding that the imam repeatedly stressed the sensitive role of the ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic Republic abroad in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution. [passage omitted]

This speech was followed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, who noted that his holiness the imam adopted the neither east, nor west slogan, adding: This slogan does not mean building a wall around us, and the imam's view was not so either. What the imam and the respected leader stress is the safeguarding of principles the loss of which would damage the revolution.

He added: We must not lose our spiritual influence among the people of the world in our dealings with them. Stressing the need for the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international arena, he said: You, as the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, must endeavor to safeguard the achievements of the revolution.

*All New Birth Certificates To Be Issued by 1994

90AS0190N London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] All Iranian birth certificates must be turned in by the end of 1372 [20 March 1994] and replaced with new ones. Last week the chief of the National Statistics and Registry Organization announced that males born after the year 1338 [21 March 1959-20 March 1960] and females born after 1346 [21 March 1967-20 March 1968] may obtain their ration coupons for basic goods only with the new birth certificates. Those born in 1346 and 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] and afterwards may still obtain ration coupons with the old birth certificates. Since 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] 32 million of the new birth certificates have been issued to the people.

The chief of the National Statistics and Registry Organization said that the number of births registered in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] declined 8.2 percent from the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], and the deaths registered in this period also declined 16.25 percent.

*Efforts To Expand Regional Cooperation Continue

90AS0190M London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jun 90 3

[Text] The foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran will soon hold a joint meeting to discuss ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] economic cooperation. Their meeting will be held in Pakistan.

The governments of Turkey, Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic made new efforts some time ago to expand their economic ties and cooperation, but despite the efforts that have been made in this area, there has been no tangible progress.

Political observers believe that the reason no economic agreements have been reached between the three countries is mainly the unsuitable political atmosphere resulting from the Islamic Republic regime's intervention in Turkey's internal affairs. The Turks, in view of the sensitivity of the domestic conditions in their country, are very worried about intensified activity on the part of Islamic fundamentalists. They do not show that much interest in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic, which could create opportunities for expanded intervention by the Islamic Republic's agents in that country, but at the same time, this is not to deny that Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey have common interests in the face of the other nations of the area, all of whom have come together separately to form pacts.

While it is in dire need of a new place of support in the area and has now become even more isolated for having lost its friendship with Syria, the Islamic Republic regime is unable to win the confidence of the government of Turkey because the regime's avowed policy not only makes no promises not to intervene in the domestic affairs of other countries, it also officially emphasizes that the Islamic government considers itself responsible for defending the interests of Muslims of the world wherever they live and without regard to their nationality, and this amounts to a rejection of the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of others.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's lack of sincerity about expanding relations with Turkey is another obstacle to progress in the ECO's work. According to Turkish newspaper writers, Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not like Turks and he has no real desire to expand relations with Turkey.

Meanwhile, the government of Pakistan is in a better position for relations with the Islamic government. Numerous exchanges of visits between government officials on both sides, especially between army and revolutionary guard commanders, and Mrs. Bhutto's recent trip to Tehran have evidently diminished to a degree the Islamic government's enmity for a woman prime minister in a neighboring Islamic country.

We note that the last ECO meeting two months ago did not produce any positive results.

*President: Iraq Not Serious About Peace Talks

90AS0190Q London KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jun 90 pp 9, 14

[Text] In his press conference last week, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told foreign news correspondents that in its proposals about reaching peace with Iran, the Iraqi regime was not serious.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani confirmed that Saddam Husayn had invited him for a meeting without intermediaries. As a condition for a meeting with Saddam Husayn, he said that expert talks must be held under United Nations supervision.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani told correspondents: From Iraq's letters, we had concluded that this government had made a serious decision, but the unprincipled position of the Arab leaders in Baghdad brought into question Iraq's seriousness about reaching a lasting peace.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was asked by correspondents about his previous statement that if Israel attacked Iraq he would defend Iraq. He answered: We do not think there is any serious hostility between Israel and Iraq. Iraq's clashes with Israel are for political propaganda. He then added: We declare that if any country, be it, Islamic, or other, is attacked by Israel, the Islamic Republic will comprehensively support and aid them.

While Hashemi-Rafsanjani was saying that Iraq is not serious about its proposal for peace with Iran, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO began anti-Iraqi broadcasts.

In broadcasting remarks by 'Alameh Sadeq 'Ali Taqavi, the chief of the Ja'fari Theology Movement of Pakistan now in Tehran, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO accused the former Iraqi ambassador of killing 'Aref Husayni, the leader of the Pakistan Hezbollahis. It said that the former Iraqi ambassador to Pakistan, with the cooperation of agents from the government of Saudi Arabia, carried out the plot to kill this person, who was a serious follower of Khomeyni in Pakistan.

United Nations Clash

At the same time Kamal Kharazi, the Iranian regime's representative at the United Nations, submitted a letter to the secretary-general Friday night (18 Khordad—8 June) reprimanding the Iraqi regime for bringing up the accusation against Iranian forces of carrying out the chemical attack on the city of Halabcheh.

On 3 Khordad (23 May) the Iraqi regime's representative to the United Nations published a letter as a Security Council document along with a Washington Post article in which it was claimed that Iranian forces had used chemical weapons to bomb the city of Halabcheh in an attack on Iraqi soil.

The action taken by the permanent Iraqi UN representative has been seen as an indication of increased hostility between the Tehran and Baghdad regimes. In his letter to the secretary-general, Kamal Kharazi emphasized that by taking this action the Iraqi regime is seeking to cover up its crime in the city of Halabcheh, which has even been confirmed by the UN Security Council, and to change history.

We note that in a meeting dated 4 April 1989 the UN Security Council issued a statement deploring Iraq's use of chemical weapons in Halabcheh.

Iraq's use of chemical weapons in Halabcheh killed more than 5,000 women, men, and children living in this city, and the publication of reports and photographs of this crime shook the world. The reason the Iraqis attacked the Kurdish city of Halabcheh was the anger of Iraqi commanders a [illegible] welcome given by the people of this city to Iranian [illegible] when this city was captured by the Iranian army.

Iraq: Expert Talks Not Necessary

In response to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements in a press conference this week about the necessity for expert talks between the Islamic Republic and Iraq before meetings can be held between the presidents of the two countries, the Iraqi regime said that this is not a necessary preliminary step and that a meeting at the level of heads of state would in itself guarantee the success of the talks. On 7 June the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that in the view of Iraqi officials, to make a meeting between the heads of state of the two countries contingent upon meetings between experts and then between ministers would make the talks too lengthy and it would give "mischief-makers" an opportunity to sabotage them, while the heads of state of the two countries are themselves fully competent to make any decision.

Concerning the role of the UN secretary-general, Iraq still supports participation by the UN secretary general in the talks "to facilitate the talks," but Iraqi officials believe that the UN secretary general must not engage in the talks on behalf of one of the two sides. These officials say that Iraq accepted Security Council Resolution 598 when it was linked to the condition that there be direct talks between the two sides. Therefore, Iraq insists on direct talks and meetings without preliminaries between the leaders of the two nations.

On the other hand, in recent days the Sultanate of Oman has been making intense efforts to bring closer together the positions of Tehran and Baghdad on how to hold peace talks. Yusuf Bin 'Alawi, deputy foreign minister of Oman, is playing an important role in these efforts. On a trip to Saudi Arabia to take part in a conference of ministers of finance and foreign affairs for member nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, he said: The governments of the "Persian" Gulf are making great efforts to bring about a meeting between Saddam Husayn and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Political observers in the Persian Gulf region believe that Bin 'Alawi is now playing the role of mediator between Iraq and the Islamic Republic, and that indirect talks between the two countries are being carried out through him.

Bin 'Alawi himself also confirmed that his country is playing the role of consultant on the peace talks for Iraq and Iran.

*Paper Reports on Women Ignoring Islamic Dress

90AS0190D London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jun 90 pp 1, 8

[Text]

- After arresting improperly veiled women they chain them.
- Hezbollah thugs, on the streets, shower the women and girls with indecent language.
- Despite the regime's inhumane pressures, women continue to resist.

A special report on the condition of women in Iran gives the details of the frightening lives of Iranian women and girls under daily increasing pressure from the Islamic government.

According to this report, Hezbollah elements and the agents of the Islamic Republic regime assault women and girls every day with new and inhumane tactics, imposing a tormenting life upon them.

Hezbollah thugs have been released in large numbers in crowded parts of the cities, and their task is to curse women and girls. In loud voices and indecent language, they shout abuse at ladies who have allowed their scarves to slide back a bit or who have used some makeup, so that these ladies feel intense shame in the crowd.

An eyewitness in Tajrish Square said that the regime's ruffians loiter among the crowds and display themselves clearly to the people.

The aforementioned report states that "patrols" arrest women who have so-called improper veils and then chain them and take them away. The news of the arrest of the women and girls is kept from their families for several days. Despite all this, the women and girls vigorously resist the regime's agents and get into scuffles with them.

According to the same report, the number of women and girls who disappear increases every day, and no one knows what happens to them.

Most of those arrested are taken to the Pol-e Rumi Komiteh. There a monstrous Hezbollah woman with a most despicable face terrifies the women and girls in the komiteh's dark basement and flogs them.

Many of the women and girls who are arrested on the charge of bad veiling are kept for days on end in most inhumane conditions in the basements of the komitehs. At the Pol-e Rumi komiteh, the women sleep on the floor with little to cover them. They do not permit them to use the toilet, forcing them to relieve themselves in their clothing where they sleep.

Elsewhere in this report it states that two girls younger than 18 years of age were given 76 lashes for wearing cat-like glasses, and 80 lashes for wearing pleated smocks [rupush-e chindar—a smock-like outfit the women wear, it should be loose so as not to cling to the body].

The same report confirms that recently military conscripts and sometimes elite army soldiers in berets have been going into the streets with the revolutionary guard "patrols" to change the view of the people towards them, and they also must help the Hezbollah agents arrest the women and girls. The punishment for soldiers who fail to cooperate with the Hezbollah in carrying out this assignment is imprisonment for more than a month.

At the end of this report, it states that the great fear for Iranian society that was discussed in the past has now materialized. The terror that pressures the women of Iran more than the other classes of society is here.

Nepal

King, Premier Meet Indian Communist Leader

BK2207130090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kathmandu, July 22 (AFP)—Communist Party of India (Marxist) Politburo member Jyoti Basu met here Sunday with Nepal's King Birendra and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, officials said. Mr. Basu, also chief minister of West Bengal State, arrived here Saturday with 11 other party delegates for the 12th death anniversary of Nepal Communist Leader Pushpa Lal Shrestha.

Addressing a conference organised by the Nepal Journalists' Association that included some 1,000 journalists and communist leaders early in the day, Mr. Basu spoke of his close ties to Mr. Shrestha, who died in India in 1978 after 18 years of self-exile.

Mr. Basu, who supported Nepal's 10-week democracy movement earlier this year, assured support for the Nepalese people from his party and the government of West Bengal. He also called for increased cooperation between the two South Asian countries and expressed regret at their recent trade and transit disputes.

Mr. Basu later met with King Birendra at the Narayan Hity Royal Palace to discuss bilateral ties, recent political developments and the problems of Nepalese dissidents living in several northern Indian states, party sources said.

He also stressed the importance of closer ties among Nepal's political parties in fulfilling the wishes of the people, both ahead of and after general elections scheduled for next year, and attended a memorial meeting for Mr. Shrestha before leaving here later Sunday.

Pakistan

Reportage on Outcome of Secretary-Level Talks

Indian Proposals 'Do Not Address' Issue

BK2107144490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said the confidence-building measures proposed by the Indian foreign secretary at the recent India-Pakistan talks on Kashmir do not address the solution to the real issue. Giving details to newsmen in Karachi today, the spokesman said it has been made clear to the Indian delegation that it is not possible to create confidence without eliminating the danger of confrontation, and to eliminate that danger it is imperative that all the forces should be pulled back to the peacetime positions. The spokesman said that in the current situation Pakistan is adhering to a cautious policy as we feel that in view of the current level of preparedness on both sides, a military confrontation would be devastating. He said it has been made clear to the Indian foreign secretary that talks can only be held on an equitable basis as sovereign nations. The spokesman said the current struggle in Kashmir is in fact the reaction of the Kashmiri people against the increased use of force by the Indian security agencies and they are carrying out this struggle in their own way.

The spokesman said that during Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to the 14 Islamic countries, we have apprised the countries of the world, especially the Muslim countries, of the pathetic condition of the Kashmiri people.

Ahmad Khan Reviews Talks

BK2007160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Pakistan has emphasized that a resolution of the Kashmir issue and redeployment of troops to the peacetime position are essential in building confidence between Pakistan and India. This was stated by Pakistani Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan while talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport after seeing off his Indian counterpart Muchkund Dubey, who returned to New Delhi today. The Pakistani foreign secretary termed the latest round of talks between Pakistan and India as useful for creating an understanding between the two countries. He said that Pakistan considers the massing of Indian troops at its borders as totally unwarranted, as an attempt to intimidate, and as an aggressive step. The massing of troops makes it very difficult to create mutual confidence between the two countries. He said that the Kashmir issue was discussed at great length during the talks. An entire session was devoted to this issue.

The foreign secretary said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said that Pakistan believes in the peaceful settlement of the issue through negotiations in accordance with international accords and the Simla Agreement. The two countries are committed to international accords, and the Simla Agreement provides for the mechanism to settle bilateral issues, he added.

In reply to a question, the foreign secretary said that Pakistan is extending only moral and political support to the Kashmiri people who are struggling for their right to self-determination. Answering another question, he said that after his meeting with newsmen last night, the Indian delegation gave him papers relating to Pakistan's alleged involvement in occupied Kashmir. He said that we have promised to examine these papers very carefully. Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan does not believe in using violence to settle bilateral disputes. He agreed with the Indian foreign secretary's view that there is no possibility of war between the two countries. Pakistan does not foster any aggressive designs against its neighbors, nor does it want to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Earlier, the Indian foreign secretary said that the talks helped to better understand each other's perspective on issues relating to bilateral relations. He refused to say anything about redeployment of Indian forces to the peacetime position, saying that he does not want to affect in any way next month's talks in New Delhi.

Speaks to Institute

BK2207063390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, has said the danger of war between India and Pakistan has been reduced to some extent. However, the situation between the two countries is still tense. Addressing the members of the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs in Karachi last evening, he said Pakistan's policy is clear that war should be avoided.

The foreign secretary said that during the recent meeting between Pakistan and India we discussed the situation in Kashmir for almost three hours. He said the Indian delegation contended that the uprising in occupied Kashmir is the result of Pakistan's assistance to the people of occupied Kashmir. He said we proposed to the Indian delegation a neutral verification mechanism through joint or international forums with regard to the evidence of Pakistan's alleged involvement in occupied Kashmir. He said the uprising in occupied Kashmir has proved that the Kashmiri people have rejected Indian domination.

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan said during the foreign secretaries level talks both countries have agreed that in the future both sides would give prior notice for military exercises.

Khan added that there should be elections in Afghanistan and it is necessary that the interim government of mujahidin have broader representation.

Says Indian Troop Buildup 'Unwarranted'

BK2207064790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Secretary Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan has said Pakistan does not advocate the use of violence and force to settle political conflicts or differences. In an interview with BBC, he said Pakistan attaches great importance to the wishes of the people of Kashmir, but at the same time it wants to settle the issue peacefully through a dialogue.

Answering a question, the foreign secretary said that India's concentration of troops is absolutely unwarranted and Pakistan considers it an effort to intimidate and threaten. He emphasized that the troops should be withdrawn as a start to confidence-building measures. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan said if the troops are not withdrawn to peace-time positions, creation of any type of confidence will be very difficult if not impossible.

Paper Reviews Outcome

BK2107135090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jul 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A Perilous Path"]

[Text] It would be wrong to assume that the "inconclusive" talks between the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India, held in Islamabad last Wednesday and Thursday [18-19 July] were devoid of significance or that they failed to achieve any objectives. On the contrary, it is unlikely that Pakistan could have achieved more by way of undermining its principled position on the Kashmir issue, than it has already done through taking the initiative of talking Kashmir with India in a strictly bilateral framework. The fears expressed by this newspaper before the start of the Secretaries talks of the valiant freedom fighters inside the occupied territory feeling let down by Pakistan's holding discussions with India at this most crucial phase were to be vindicated with most unfortunate consequences. Indian occupation forces killed scores of Mujahideen [holy warriors] when the latter called a strike in protest against the Islamabad parleys. And now the ill-conceived exercise is contemplated to be repeated in New Delhi on August 9 and 10 when the Pakistan Foreign Secretary flies over to the Indian capital.

Why are the two sides bent upon entering into repeated rounds of high-profile, formal discussions on Kashmir when both have no reason to expect that the outcome would be any more definitive than the restatement of their agreement to disagree? The explanation has, perhaps, to be sought in Pakistan government's slow but sure veering round to the Indian interpretation of the Simla Agreement, according to which the two sides are obliged to resolve the Kashmir dispute through a bilateral arrangement to the exclusion of the United Nations and its Resolutions on the question which prescribe self-determination for the people of the territory. Not only have official references to the UN Resolutions been fewer in coming from the official quarters in Islamabad of late, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in the course of her recent tour abroad, projected the then forthcoming bilateral talks as being in conformity with the Simla agreement.

All this adds up to a most disturbing scenario, the best-case outcome of whose logical extension would be the Kashmir Intifada being rendered into a "manageable revolt" of the kind being conducted in Palestine, and the worst-case eventuality being India granting more "autonomy" to the occupied territory. The latter happens to be the recipe touted most unabashedly on behalf of the United States Administration, at whose bidding Pakistan and India have incidentally, agreed to open formal talks on Kashmir. The only risk inherent to the scheme, however, and one which any authority in Pakistan would overlook at great peril to its own health, is that the people of this country would never countenance the bartering away of Kashmir, which they consider integral to the very essence of their nationhood. War with an external enemy may be avoided with or without honour, but there is no escaping the collective will of a people.

Paper on Presence of Indian Agents in Pakistan

BK2207105490 Lahore THE NATION in English 22 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Karachi—A large number of trained Indian RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents who are experts in carrying out subversive activities have entered Pakistan via Bangladesh, reports UPP [UNITED PRESS OF PAKISTAN].

It may be recalled that a group of prominent Ulema [Islamic scholars] of Bangladesh had warned Pakistan few days back in this regard.

According to the Ulema, the Indian Intelligence agencies have been sending scores of trained agents via Bangladesh. The operation has been going on for more than two years. The agents from India first come to Bangladesh, acquire Bangladesh passports and then move on to Karachi.

According to an Ulema, the Indian agents can speak Sindhi, Punjabi and Urdu fluently.

According to the Ulema, the operations of RAW having its origin and headquarters in India, have now been shifted to Kabul and Dubayy. The agents are also going to Kabul, then to Dubayy and from there are reaching Pakistan.

Second Research Atomic Reactor Commissioned

BK2107162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 21 (AFP)— Pakistan has commissioned its second research atomic reactor, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) said Saturday. The advanced tank-and-pool type reactor, built with Chinese assistance, has been installed at the centre for nuclear studies (CNS) located at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear

Science and Technology (PINSTECH) near here. A PAEC announcement described the new reactor as an ideal facility for training and nuclear engineering experiments.

Pakistan and China, longtime allies, have been cooperating in the nuclear field. During a visit here last November Chinese Premier Li Peng announced that Beijing would provide Pakistan with a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant.

French President Francois Mitterrand, while visiting Islamabad in February this year, announced his country's decision to sell a 900-megawatt atomic power plant to Pakistan.

The first research reactor was commissioned into service at the Pakistan nuclear complex in 1965 and is currently being renovated and upgraded, the PAEC announcement said. The new one, designed by the Beijing Institute of Atomic Energy, uses highly enriched uranium as fuel, light water as moderator and metallic beryllium as reflector, the PAEC said. The civil structures, reactor pool, cooling and water purification system, radiation monitoring system and training laboratories were designed by Pakistani scientists and engineers, it added.

The PAEC said the reactor has been performing "well," proving a "safe, economical and effective tool of neutron activation analysis, radio isotope production for scientific and industrial applications and training."

Foreign Minister Leaves for Cairo for Consultations

BK2207084190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has gone to Cairo to hold consultations with Egyptian leaders on issue that would come up at the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference. The conference is scheduled to take place in Cairo on the 31st of this month. Pakistan has inscribed the Kashmir issue on the conference agenda. Other items include Afghanistan question, the Middle East situation, and the question of Palestine.

Permanent UN Representative Dies in Tokyo 22 Jul

BK2207153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr. Nasim Ahmad, died in Tokyo today following a heart attack. He was 63. He had arrived in Tokyo from Manila on an official mission. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

State of Emergency Extended Another Month

BK2007112890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month was passed in Parliament by a majority of 116 votes. One hundred and seventeen MP's [members of Parliament] voted in favor of the motion, while the USA [United Socialist Alliance] MP Vasudeva Nanayakara voted against it. The MP's of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress voted for the motion with the government, while the MP's of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] and the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] abstained from voting.

Winding up the debate, the Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne said that the civil warlike situation, which prevailed in the country for 20 years, will be totally eliminated by defeating the LTTE terrorism.

The leader of the opposition, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, has urged the government to restart a dialogue with the Tamil militant groups which entered to Parliament.

Mass Grave of Massacred Policemen Found

BK2007143290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 20 (AFP) - Government troops fighting Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's Northeast have stumbled upon a mass grave said to be that of more than 110 policemen massacred by the rebels. A Defence Ministry communique said late Friday that the mass grave was found when the security forces conducted search operations in the Eastern Province during the last 24 hours. It did not say in which district it was found.

"It is said to be that of over 110 policemen who were shot in the head around the 13th of June 1990 as witnessed by a young sub-inspector who escaped death," the communique said. Police officer Shantha Ranaweera has said that he escaped a gruesome massacre of more than 100 policemen by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in eastern Ampara two days after the rebels renewed their campaign for a separate state on June 11. The communique also said that more than 1,000 policemen surrendered to the guerrillas in the Eastern Province and charged the LTTE with slaughtering 630 of them who have been missing since fighting broke out.

"It is believed that they have been tortured and killed by the LTTE terrorists," it said. The Tigers have denied such charges in the past.

Colombo has confirmed that 289 of the abducted policemen had been killed by the Tigers. Similar mass graves have been reported from time to time by the security forces during operations in the East.

According to unofficial and official tallies, more than 1,900 people including many civilians have been killed so far in the fighting in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeast. Thousands of other civilians have fled the region.

The security forces also shot dead three guerrillas when they were attempting to plant a claymore mine in Ampara District, the communique said.

Meanwhile, military officials here said that fighting was continuing in the Northern Province, parts of which are rebel-controlled. A military official said troops were conducting a major offensive to clear the area near the Northern Elephant Pass army camp, which like most camps in the north, has been under rebel siege since the violence erupted. No further details were available.

The guerrillas were maintaining their attacks on the other camps in the Northern Province including the main army garrison in Jaffna Fort, and the army camps at Kankesanthurai and Killinochchi. The communique said the rebels were pressing their attacks with mortars, machine guns and small arms.

LTTE 'Ideologue' Faces Crisis Within Ranks

BK2107085290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0709 GMT 21 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Informed sources in Jaffna told LANKAPUVATH that Anton Stanislaus Balasingham and his Australian wife Adele, who thought it was glamorous to be associated with a terrorist movement and Adele even had an AK-47 slung over her shoulder leading a squad of women up and down the streets of Jaffna town, are now cloistered in bunkers and are carrying on a running battle with LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Prabhakaran to provide them a speed boat to South India, so that they could transit from there to spend a comfortable summer in London.

The sources also said that Balasingham, who earlier worked in the VIRAKESARI and was later a translator in the British High Commission in Colombo was awarded automatic British citizenship, when his department in the British High commission was closed.

After 1983, he served as Prabhakaran's chief translator of pamphlets in London and became a self appointed ideologue and dubious front man for negotiations.

The sources also said, now Balasingham and his wife have found the volley and thunder of Jaffna too hot for them and hence intensified their fight with their leader to return to colder climes and warmer comforts of London.

Meanwhile, Kittu, Prabhakaran's cousin, who manages the London office at Kings Cross in Central London has refused to have Balasingham and his wife intervening in his operations.

Minister Asks Tamil Nadu To Return Refugees

BK2107091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, has appealed to the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, to send back all the Sri Lankan refugees now in the state. In reply to an adjournment motion in parliament yesterday, Mr. Wijeratne said that it is up to Tamil Nadu to send back the refugees and see whether Sri Lanka could look after them or not. He reiterated that the government has set aside the Mannar Island to look after the refugees and International Committee of Red Cross would assist in this task. The Sri Lankan Navy would provide the refugees with necessary protection, he said.

Communique Issued on Security Forces Operations

BK2107124290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The security forces continued to conduct search and clear operations in the Eastern Province during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 noon yesterday. In one such operation, a mass grave has been found. It is said to be that of over 110 policemen who were shot in the head around the 13th of June 1990 as witnessed by a young subinspector who escaped death. It may be recalled that over 1,000 policemen surrendered to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the Eastern Province and (?other) 630 are still missing. It is believed that they have been tortured and killed by the LTTE terrorists.

The Information Department in a communique said that it has been found that small groups of LTTE terrorists have infiltrated into the villages disguised as Muslims with the intention of harassing the villagers. They are fast merging with the civilian population to create a situation where the security forces have apprehended three LTTE terrorists in ordinary civilian dress with sophisticated communication sets, mini-video cameras and mini-cameras. [sentence as heard] The public are warned to keep clear of any LTTE terrorist who try to mingle with them. Also, the public should provide information on the presence or movement of such terrorist cadres for their own safety.

The security forces in the Amparai District are continuing operations to keep the road clear of LTTE terrorists who may infiltrate to plant land mines and antipersonnel mines to disrupt road communications in the area. In (Vengalamuttu Kulam) and Tirukkovil, the security forces during their cordon and search operations held three LTTE terrorists who attempted to lay a claymore mine. A special task force while conducting clearing operations in the Sangamankanda area recovered a large quantity of claymore and antipersonnel mines left behind by the LTTE terrorists.

According to the communique, the security forces who were consolidating in the camp area of Elephant Pass and are now clearing the southern area of the Causeway including the

Elephant Pass [words indistinct] area. The LTTE terrorists still continue to fire mortar bombs, machine guns, small arms in the Kankesanturai, Jaffna Fort and Killinochchi army camps in the Northern Province.

Meeting of Anti-LTTE Tamil Parties Reported

BK2107130690 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Representatives of six Tamil political parties in Sri Lanka, who are opposed to the separatist Tamil Tigers have been holding a joint meeting for the first time in several months. They are discussing the situation in the Tamil-dominated north and east of the island, where fighting between government forces and the Tigers is continuing. As Christopher Morris reports from Colombo, the six parties say they have renounced the goal of an independent Tamil state and they want to negotiate for greater devolution within the framework of a united Sri Lanka.

[Begin Christopher Morris recording] Most of the parties involved in the talks have, at some stage, been allies of the Tamil Tigers and the government says the fact that most Tamil groups are now anti-Tigers is an indication of how little support the rebels command. The six parties also support the government's attempt to defeat the Tigers militarily, although they have expressed considerable concern at the rising civilian death toll among the Tamil population. A spokesman for one of the parties involved said there was no formal agenda for today's talks. But one of the issues, which is likely to be raised, is the political vacuum in the north and east. The government dissolved the Northeast Provincial Council earlier this month, because it had ceased to function and it has now postponed plans to hold a fresh election because of the continuing fighting. Individually, the Tamil groups have held talks with both government and opposition leaders on ways of satisfying the demand for greater devolution. In reality, though, the Tigers are still far and wide the most powerful force in Tamil politics. And it is difficult to see how any new political move can be made while the north and east remains a war zone. [end recording]

LTTE Says 25 Tamil Refugees Die of Starvation

BK2207063690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (AFP)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the powerful Tamil guerrilla group fighting government troops in Sri Lanka, has alleged that 25 refugees died of starvation in eastern Sri Lanka. In a statement received here from its London office Sunday the LTTE charged Colombo with deliberately starving the Tamil people in the island's Tamil-majority northeast. Due to "a complete economic embargo over Tamil areas" 800,000 refugees, particularly in the Eastern Province "have desperately low food and medical supplies and there is a real danger of mass starvation."

"So far 25 Tamil refugees in a Batticaloa refugee camp (in the east) died due to starvation."

More than 1,900 people have died in the violent conflict between security forces and the LTTE since the guerrillas renewed their campaign for a separate Tamil state on June 11. Thousands of others have become refugees in government-sponsored camps in the northeast or fled to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu across the Palk Strait, the narrow stretch of sea dividing Sri Lanka and India. Colombo has accused the Tigers of creating the food shortages by looting government food depots in the northeast.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international agencies are now involved in transporting food supplies to the area. But the LTTE said Colombo was misleading the international community by "claiming that emergency relief donated by international agencies is being delivered to the north and east."

"This is a deliberate lie," it said, adding that ICRC convoys of 12 trucks carrying food and medicine to northern Jaffna and eight trucks to the Eastern Province was "hardly sufficient for a day." A food convoy organised by the ICRC took supplies to Jaffna on July 13 and a Red Cross official here said that a second ICRC-arranged convoy of 26 trucks loaded with food and medicine arrived in Jaffna Saturday.

The LTTE also alleged that more than 300 refugees fleeing to southern India from northwestern Mannar and Jaffna had been killed during the past month after their boats were sunk by the Navy. "A number of bodies have washed ashore," it said. The statement said Sri Lankan Navy gunboats have been instructed to prevent the flow of refugees as the government was "perturbed that this could draw Indian attention."

Colombo has admitted that the Navy has turned back boatloads of refugees trying to escape to India and said it does not want to create embarassment for the Tamil Nadu state government by allowing the refugee exodus. New Delhi has expressed concern over the influx of refugees and said it was exploring ways of establishing camps within Sri Lanka for them. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne has said that Tamil Nadu should send back the refugees, insisting adequate protection would be given to them.

The LTTE also denied that 98 of its cadres were killed by security forces during an operation in northern Mankulam last week. It said four soldiers were killed and four LTTE cadres died when an attack by "Sri Lankan soldiers was repulsed," adding the Sri Lankan Government "fabricated its own version of the incident."

Six Soldiers, 30 Rebels Die in LTTE Ambush

BK2207072490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (AFP)—Tamil rebels ambushed and killed six government troops but suffered heavy casualties in fresh fighting in Sri Lanka's war-torn areas, military officials here said Sunday. A military spokesman said that the six soldiers were part of an army convoy moving from the Thalladi army camp in the northwestern Mannar District when it was ambushed by guerillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on Saturday [21 July]. He said that nine other soldiers were wounded and at least 30 guerrillas were killed when troops opened fire in the afternoon ambush near a reservoir. The spokesman did not say how many troops were involved but said that fierce fighting raged when the Tigers attacked the convoy with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

In a separate incident Saturday, two soldiers were killed when the bus in which they were travelling caught fire due to a technical defect in north-central Polonnaruwa District, the spokesman said. Two civilians were also killed in the fire, he added. The bus was carrying troops from neighbouring eastern Trincomalee through Polonnaruwa to another operational zone in the east when the vehicle caught fire, the spokesman said.

According to a compilation of official and unofficial figures, at least 1,950 people have so far been killed in the violence which erupted June 11 when the LTTE attacked security forces in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast. Defence Secretary General Cyril Ranatunga said last week that the army had lost 138 men while another 113 had gone missing. Military officials here said that most of the soldiers listed missing are believed to have been killed.

Security Forces Consolidate Positions 21 Jul

BK2207114890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The Defense Ministry says that the security forces further consolidated their positions in the North and East yesterday. Twelve police constables attached to the Vellaveli and Batticaloa police stations who were abducted and held by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists since last month had overpowered the terrorist sentries on the 17th of July and escaped torture and death. They reported to the Arangalvila police station in the Polonnaruwa District, exhausted and suffering injuries inflicted by the terrorists. It is reported that yesterday six more police constables who were also held in captivity had reported to the Arangalvila police station.

LTTE terrorists abducted two persons belonging to the Muslim community in Akkaraipattu in the Eastern Province. The security forces, conducting operations in the Kalmunai area, met with resistance. In the ensuing encounter seven LTTE terrorists died. The security forces, during flushing out operations in the Vellaveli area, destroyed a boat with 10 LTTE terrorists who were fleeing across the lagoon. In the Trincomalee District, the LTTE terrorists attempted to launch an attack on the Sinhala village of Maha Diwul Wewa. This village is located a few miles east of the 88th mile post on the Anuradhapura-Trincomalee road. However, the home-guards on duty drove away the terrorists.

LTTE terrorists have blasted the Colombo-Jaffna road at the narrow end of Elephant Pass and the road is impassable to road traffic. Military intelligence sources said that this has been done to prevent the people of Jaffna Peninsula from moving into the large refugee camps that have been set up by the government in Vavuniya and Mannar Island.

Communication intercepted indicate that the strategy of the LTTE terrorists is to confine a large number of the people of the North to the Jaffna Peninsula so that they can be used as human shield against the advancing security forces.

Premadasa Blames LTTE for Lack of Development

BK2207121090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa said yesterday that the government has to allocate 5,000 million rupees to strengthen the security forces due to the war in the North and the East. This money could have been spent for the country's development. Hence, the present problem in the north and the east affects the whole country. President Premadasa noted that he selected a path of consultation, compromise, and consensus to avoid such an unnecessary war. The president was speaking at a mass rally which followed the inauguration of the Mawanella Nuwaragama model village. The meeting was held in the (Arusanuwala Dedimanda Devalaya) premises.

The president said that many people are inquiring about the reasons behind the discussions held with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Explaining the outcome of his talks with the LTTE, the president said that the discussions helped to create a true perspective in the North and the East issue among the people in Sri Lanka and abroad. Other Tamil groups are now united in a common front against the LTTE. The president pointed out that the action of the LTTE, the so-called liberators of the Tamils, is very similar to that of the JVP [Janatha Vimuthi Peramuna]. The lives of luxury led by the leaders of the JVP have been revealed after their defeat. President Premadasa said that the real image of the LTTE leaders would be revealed soon after their defeat.

The president recalled that at the time he assumed office, he had to face three major challenges. Already, the government has been able to successfully overcome two of them. The remaining challenge is the north and east issue. The president expressed the hope that this challenge will be met with success in the near future. Mr. Premadasa stressed that the aim of his government is to provide equal treatment to all sections of the people. He pointed out that the village reawakening movement has given an opportunity to be among the villagers and noted that this program is the base of the present government.

The minister of construction and building materials, Chandra Ranatunge, said that 4.2 million rupees have been allocated for the Nawa Nuwaragama housing development program. He added that the government has spent more that 9 million for the Alut Nuwara sacred city project.

'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed in Northern Town

BK2307084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, an indefinite curfew has been imposed on northern Kilinochchi District since this morning. A statement broadcast on state radio said the curfew was imposed to avoid civilian casualties as troops have begun advancing toward Killinochchi where an Army base is under siege by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] for the past six weeks. Troops are marching from the Elephant Pass where the causeway has since been repaired after the LTTE damaged it on Saturday [21 July]. Military sources said troops were also continuing mopping up operations in the Eastern Province.

Tamil Group Resigns From Parliament

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[Text] Colombo, July 23 (AFP)—The Tamil political group with the largest representation in Sri Lanka's parliament has said that all its MPs [members of parliament] had resigned their seats with effect Monday. The Eelavar Democratic Front (EDF) said in a statement that 10 of its 13 MPs had resigned in protest against Colombo's current military offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels. Three other EDF seats in parliament have not been filled.